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LANEHAM'S
LETTER DESCRIBING
THE
MAGNIFICENT PAGEANTS
PRESENTED BEFORE
QUEEN ELIZABETH,
AT
KENILWORTH CASTLE:
IN 1575;
REPEATEDLY REFERRED TO IN THE ROMANCE
OF
KENILWORTH;
WITH AN INTRODUCTORY PREFACE, GLOSSARIAL
AND EXPLANATORY NOTES.

"A very diverting Tract, written by as great a Coxcomb
as ever blotted paper." *Kenilworth.*

PHILADELPHIA:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HICKMAN AND
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INTRODUCTORY PREFACE.

THE uncommon interest which has been excited by the admirable historical romance of Kenilworth, has induced the publisher of the present volume to reprint a contemporary account of the pageants at the castle of the Earl of Leicester, with such revisions and improvements as might best qualify it for general reading. English prose, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was either harsh and unmusical in its own construction, or was rendered almost unintelligible by fantastical and romantic expressions, such as were used by Puttenham, Lilly, Henry Lite, Sir Philip Sidney, and others. Robert Laneham, the author of the following descriptive Letter, as an officer of the court, naturally fell into the style of speaking and writing which was then fashionable; and accordingly his sentences are often so metaphorical, or constructed of such singular expressions, that they would lead the plain and general reader to doubt what was his true meaning. Such, together with the affected and pedantic mode of spelling, were the publisher's motives for modernising this curious document, and for adding the explanatory notes which accompany it. By many his labours will doubtless be received with pleasure; but to those who would tenaciously adhere to the very rust of antiquity, he would remark with an eminent bibliographical writer, that Laneham's language is not changed, but only "the dust is taken from his coat, and the tarnish from his lace." Having thus shown the reasons which first induced a modern edition of this amusing detail of the Kenilworth festivities, it remains to give some account of the author "MASTER ROBERT LANEHAM.

The little which is known concerning this person is chiefly to be found in his own work; where, through his conceited style of writing, some circumstances of his life are preserved which must otherwise have remained for ever unknown. It would seem that Robert Laneham was born in the county of Nottingham, and that he was educated at St. Paul's school, and afterwards at that of St. Anthony, near the Royal Exchange, which, according to Stow, bore the highest "reputation in the City in former times." His father seems to have moved in a moderate, if not in a very inferior rank of life; for towards the conclusion of his letter, he states, that it was a great relief to his parent when the Earl of Leicester received him into favour and protection. Laneham appears to have held some situation in the Royal Stables, where, also his father was placed after his own advancement in the court. In addition to this situation, Laneham procured a patent, or licence, as it was then called, for serving the Royal Mews with beans, which, however, he neglected when promoted to the office of Clerk of the Council-chamber door. It is to this office that he alludes in the commencement of his letter, when he says, that he had the power, on such days as the Council did not sit, to visit whatever he thought proper to see, as well as the privilege of being present at any exhibition which should be prepared for the queen. Hence, it would appear, that Laneham's duty was not confined to keeping the entrance of the Council-room only, but that he also performed the office of a Gentleman-Usher, in preserving the Presence-Chamber, wherever that might be, free from the intrusion of strangers. It is evidently with this feeling that the author of "Kenilworth" makes Laneham say to his patron Leicester, when requesting that he may visit the castle in the queen's suite, "Behold you, my Lord, how necessary is this rod of mine to fright away all those listeners, who else would play at bo-peep with the honourable council, and be searching for key-holes and crannies in the door of the chamber, so as to render my staff as needful as a fly-flap in a butcher's shop." Vol. ii. p. 115. *MS. 1st fol. 234.*

It is not easy to imagine what the lordly and ambitious

Dudley could have discovered in the conceited and talkative Laneham, to have induced him to become so excellent a patron; but the reasons might probably be, the boldness of the latter, joined to his knowledge of several foreign languages, which rendered him peculiarly fitted for the duties of a Gentleman-Usher, who could, with official importance, keep order in the court, and converse, in their own tongues, with any of the numerous foreigners who visited it. Nor is this supposition founded upon speculation only, for towards the conclusion of this letter, Laneham expresses himself in terms like the following: "Now, Sir, when the council sits, I am at hand, and attend them closely, I warrant you; if any should talk, then I say, 'Peace, know you where you are?' If I see one listening either at the aperture in the door, or between the spaces of it, then presently I am upon him for his rudeness." In a very rare small duodecimo volume, entitled, "The Rules of Civility; or Certain Ways of Deportment observed in France, amongst all persons of quality, upon several occasions. London: 1671," are some remarks on the behaviour of those who wait in the presence and anti-chambers, which tend particularly to illustrate this branch of Laneham's duty. The courtier is informed, that "whilst he attends in the anti-chamber or presence chamber, it is not decent to walk up and down the room; and if at any time he does so, it is the usher's duty and common practice to rebuke him. It is no less absurd to whistle or sing for his diversion (as they call it) whilst he is in waiting in those rooms." Again, in speaking of first visiting the state chambers, it is stated, that "it is uncivil to knock hard, or to give more than one knock." At the door of a bed-chamber "to knock is no less than brutish; the way is, to scratch only with the nails. When he scratches with his nails at the king's bed-chamber door, or any other great person's, and the usher demands his name, he must tell him his surname only, without the qualification of Mr. S. or my Lord. When he comes into a great man's house, or chamber, it is not civil to wrap himself in his cloak; but in the king's court he runs great hazard of correction. It is boldness to enter of himself

without being introduced. If it be of importance to him to enter, and there be nobody to introduce him, he must try gently whether the door be locked or bolted on the inside: if it be, he is not to knock or fiddle about the lock, like an impatient person, as if he would pick it, but he must patiently expect till it be opened, or scratch softly to make them hear: if nobody comes, he must retire to some distance, lest being found about the door, he should be taken as an eves-dropper, or spy, which would be a great offence to all persons of quality. It is but civil to walk with his hat off in the halls and anti-chambers." Such were the regulations of conduct formerly required among the higher ranks of society; and these it was Laneham's office to see most punctiliously observed. With respect to his knowledge of "the tongues," as the ability to speak the continental languages was in his time denominated, there is Laneham's own testimony concerning their utility; for in the following letter he thus speaks: "And here do my languages now and then stand me in good stead; my French, my Spanish, my Dutch, and my Latin: sometimes among the ambassador's men, if their master be within council; sometimes with the ambassador himself, if he desire me to call for his servant, or ask me what it is o'clock, and I warrant you I answer him so boldly, that they wonder to see such a fellow there." Besides these qualifications, Laneham had travelled, having been a mercer and merchant-adventurer; and the very conceits he had brought with him from the continent, had contributed to fit him for his duties in no ordinary manner. The courtiers of Elizabeth's time, with a few exceptions, were young men of romantic and enthusiastic imaginations, full of love, chivalry, and poetical expressions; and therefore, one who could ornament his conversation with fragments of foreign languages and flowery metaphors, was of all others fitted to be the amusing servant of such a court. Laneham would indeed seem to have had qualifications of no ordinary degree; for besides the knowledge of continental manners that he had acquired in his travels, his mind was well stored with ancient romances, chronicles, and poetry of all descriptions; and it was in consequence

of this that he was so minute in his account of Captain Cox's library. Of his love for bibliography there can be no doubt, because in one part of his letter he thus speaks: "I have leisure sometime when I attend not upon the council; whereby now I look on one book, and now on another. *Stories I delight in, the more ancient and rare, the more likesome unto me.*" Surely such an assertion as this will be sufficient to rank the name of Robert Laneham with the most eminent of the lovers of early English poetry and romances of the present day.

These, then, were probably the qualifications which procured for Laneham the favour of Leicester; but it is much more difficult to explain a title which he applies to himself twice in the course of the following letter, namely, that of "The Black Prince." It might possibly be allusive to the sign by which his mercer's shop had been known in London, and this appears to be the most plausible supposition, for names so contrived might, at a former period, have been current among the tradesmen of commercial cities. It was also a common practice of Elizabeth's reign, especially with the higher orders of society, to invent romantic appellations for their most familiar acquaintance; but the first supposition is probably the nearest to the truth, since Laneham makes use of the title when writing to an intimate friend, a citizen, and one in the same branch of business which he himself had followed. This circumstance serves to corroborate that it was a title used by his mercantile associates, rather than one given him from a more fashionable source.

Such are nearly all the particulars now extant concerning Laneham; and it is evident that these were in the mind of the author of "Kenilworth," when he wrote the admirable description of Laneham waiting in the anti-room at Greenwich palace, where he even notices the convivial habits of that singular character, which gave a flushed and rosy tint to his face. This information was first given by Laneham himself in the ensuing letter, and in the following terms:—"But in faith it is not so: for sipped I no more sack and sugar than I do malmsey, I should not blush so much now-days as I do." Having

now so long dilated upon Laneham's life and the duties of his station, it will not be uninteresting to extract his portrait from the Romance of "Kenilworth" itself; it may well be regarded as an authentic likeness, and nothing can more properly conclude these memoranda concerning him. "Then the earl was approached, with several fantastic *congees*, by a person quaintly dressed in a doublet of black velvet, curiously slashed and pinked with crimson satin. A long cock's feather in the velvet bonnet, which he held in his hand, and an enormous ruff, stiffened to the extremity of the absurd taste of the times,* joined with a sharp, lively, conceited expression

* Stubbes, who has denounced with much vehemence against the frivolities of the period of which we are speaking, and has given us a vituperative description of the fashions and abuses of apparel then prevalent, inveighs bitterly against all the extravagant minutiae of dress, from the feather in the cap to the spangle on the pantofle; but his zealous fury is kindled into tenfold rage, and indeed he appears to have reached the climax of his execration, as he comes in contact with the manifold abominations of the *ruff* and its diabolical auxiliary — *starch*. "They have," says he, "great and monstrous ruffles, made either of cambricke, holland, lawne, or els of some other the finest cloth that can be got for money, whereof some be a quarter of a yarde deepe; yea, some more, very few lesse; so that they stande a full quarter of a yarde (and more) from their neckes, hanging over their shoulder-points, insteade of a vaile. But if *Æolus* with his blasts, or *Neptune* with his storms, chaunce to hit upon the crasie barke of their brused ruffles, then they goeth flip-flap in the winde, like ragges that flew abroad, lying upon their shoulders like the dishcloute of a slut. But, wot you what? The devil, as he, in the fulnesse of his malice, first invented these great ruffles, so hath he now found out also two great pillars to beare up and maintaine this, his kyngdome of greate ruffles (for the devil is kyng and prince over all the children of pride.) The one arche or piller, whereby his kyngdome of great ruffles is underpropped, is a certain kinde of liquid mat-

or countenance, seemed to body forth a vain, hair-brained coxcomb, and small wit; while the rod he held, and an assumption of formal authority, appeared to express some sense of official consequence, which qualified the natural pertness of his manner. A perpetual blush, which occupied rather the sharp nose than the thin cheek of the personage, seemed to speak more of “good life,” as it was called, than of modesty.”—Vol. ii. p. 115.

Having thus stated the few circumstances relating to the memoirs of Laneham, it remains only to add some bibliographical notices concerning the former editions of his letter. The original impressions of this tract are of extreme rarity; but in the Bodleian Library at Oxford are two copies of it, although of different editions: they are both printed in black letter, and are of a small octavo size, but they are both without either name or date. In 1784, Mr. J. Green, of Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire, published Laneham’s Letter in an octavo form with a few notes; and this was in 1788 succeeded by another reprint in quarto, which appeared in Mr. Nichols’s most erudite work, entitled “The Progresses and Public Processions of Queen Elizabeth.” Vol. i. The latter edition was also greatly improved by being a more accurate transcript of the original, and by having been revised from a copy in the possession of the Duchess of Portland. A third reprint will also be found in the first number of an expensive and beautiful work, entitled “KENILWORTH ILLUSTRATED;” and the present improved edition has been taken from a careful collation of the best which have preceded it. Laneham’s

ter, which they call starch, wherein the devil hath willed them to wash and dive their ruffes well; which, beyng drie, will then stand stiff and inflexible about their neckes. The other piller is a certaine device made of wiers, crested for the purpose, whipped over either with gold, thred, silver, or silke; and this he calleth a supportasse, or underpropper. This is to bee applied round about their neckes, under the ruffe, upon the outside of the bandle, to beare up the whole frame and bodie of the ruffe from falling and hanging doun.”—*Anatomicie of Abuses*, 1582. dued.

Letter is not, however, the only curious morsel of literature connected with the amusing Romance of Kenilworth, to which this volume is intended as a very humble appendage; for the original legend, which is preserved in Ashmole's History of Berkshire, and Mickle's beautiful ballad of Cumnor Hall, written in the manner of the metrical effusions of the reign of Elizabeth, that "*reigne of faerie*," as it has been termed, may both be considered as portions of the same subject; and as neither of these are known, but to the curious reader, and contained in works of considerable scarcity, they are both here, it is hoped, not obtrusively, inserted.

CUMNOR, which is the seat of the Kenilworth tragedy, is a vicarage in the hundred of Horner, and the Deanery of Abingdon, situated at the northern extremity of Berkshire, about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant from Abingdon, 3 from Oxford, and 61 from London.

"At the west end of the church," says Ashmole, "are the ruins of a manor anciently belonging (as a cell, or a place of removal, as some report) to the monks of Abington. In the hall, over the chimney, I find Abington arms cut in stone, *viz.* a patonce between four martlets; and also another escutcheon, *viz.* a lion rampant, and several mitres cut in stone about the house. There is also in the said house a chamber, called Dudley's chamber, where the Earl of Leicester's wife was murdered, of which this is the story following:—

"Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, a very goodly personage, and singularly well featured, being a great favourite with Queen Elizabeth, it was thought, and commonly reported, that had he been a bachelor, or widower, the queen would have made him her husband, to this end, to free himself of all obstacles, he commands, or perhaps, with fair flattering entreaties, desires his wife to repose herself here, at his servant Anthony Forster's house, who then lived in the aforesaid manor-house; and also prescribed to Sir Richard Varney, (a prompter to this design) at his coming hither, that he should first attempt to poison her, and if that did not take effect, then by any other way whatsoever to despatch her. This, it seems, was proved by the report of Dr. Walter Bayly, sometime Fellow of New College,

then living in Oxford, and Professor of Physic in that University; who, because he would not consent to take away her life by poison, the earl endeavoured to displace him from the court. This man, it seems, reported for most certain, that there was a practice in Cumnor among the conspirators, to have poisoned this poor innocent lady, a little before she was killed, which was attempted after this manner: They seeing the good lady sad and heavy (as one that well knew by her other handling, that her death was not far off) began to persuade her, that her present disease was abundance of melancholy and other humours, and therefore would needs counsel her to take some potion, which she absolutely refusing to do, as still suspecting the worst; whereupon they sent a messenger on a day (unawares to her) for Dr. Bayly, and entreated him to persuade her to take some little potion by his direction, and they would fetch the same from Oxford, meaning to have added something of their own for her comfort, as the Doctor, upon just cause and consideration did suspect, seeing their great importunity, and the small need the lady had of physic, and therefore he peremptorily denied their request, misdoubting (as he afterwards reported) least if they had poisoned her under the name of his potion, he might have been hanged for a colour of their sin; and the Doctor remained still well assured, that this way taking no effect, she would not long escape their violence, which afterwards happened thus:—For Sir Richard Varney abovesaid (the chief projector in this design,) who by the earl's order remained that day of her death alone with her, with one man only, and Forster, who had that day forcibly sent away all her servants from her to Abingdon-market, about three miles distant from this place, they (I say, whether first stifling her, or else strangling her) afterwards flung her down a pair of stairs, and broke her neck; using much violence upon her; but however, though it was vulgarly reported that she by chance fell down stairs (but yet without hurting her hood that was upon her head,) yet the inhabitants will tell you there, that she was conveyed from her usual chamber where she lay, to another where the bed's-head of the chamber stood close to a privy postern door,

where they in the night came, and stifled her in her bed, bruised her head very much, broke her neck, and at length flung her down stairs, thereby believing the world would have thought it a mischance, and so have blinded their villainy. But behold the mercy and justice of God, in revenging and discovering this lady's murder; for one of the persons, that was a coadjutor in this murder, was afterwards taken for a felony in the Marches of Wales, and offering to publish the manner of the aforesaid murder, was privately made away with in the prison by the earl's appointment. And Sir Richard Varney, the other, dying about the same time in London, cried miserably, and blasphemed God, and said to a person of note (who hath related the same to others since) not long before his death, that all the devils in hell did tear him in pieces. Forster likewise, after this fact, being a man formerly addicted to hospitality, company, mirth, and music, was afterwards observed to forsake all this with such melancholy and pensiveness (some say with madness,) pined and drooped away. The wife also of Bald. Butler, kinsman to the earl, gave out the whole fact a little before her death. Neither are these following passages to be forgotten—that as soon as ever she was murdered, they made great haste to bury her, before the coroner had given in his inquest, (which the earl himself condemned as not done advisedly) which her father, or Sir John Robertsett (as I suppose,) hearing of, came with all speed hither, caused her corpse to be taken up, the coroner to sit upon her, and further enquiry to be made concerning this business to the full, but it was generally thought that the earl stopped his mouth, and made up the business betwixt them; and the good earl to make plain to the world, the great love he bore to her while alive, what a grief the loss of so virtuous a lady was to his tender heart, caused (though the thing, by these and other means, was beaten into the heads of the principal men of the University of Oxford) her body to be re-buried in St. Marie's church in Oxford, with great pomp and solemnity. It is remarkable, when Dr. Babington (the earl's chaplain) did preach the funeral sermon, he tripped once or twice in his speech, by recommending to their memories that virtuous lady so pitifully

murdered, instead of saying *pitifully slain*. This earl, after all his murders and poisonings, was himself poisoned by that which was prepared for others (some say by his wife) at Cornbury Lodge, before mentioned, though Baker in his Chronicle would have it at Killingworth, Anno, 1588."—Ashmole's *Antiquities of Berkshire*, edit. 1723, 8vo. vol. i. p. 149—154.

The ballad of Cumnor Hall was first printed in Evans's Collection of Old Ballads, edit. 1784, vol. iv. with the antique spelling of Queen Elizabeth's period:—in a subsequent edition of this interesting work, in 1810, the poem was modernized, and from that, the present excerpt has been made which is now presented to the reader:—

CUMNOR HALL.

The dews of summer night did fall,
The moon, sweet regent of the sky,
Silver'd the walls of Cumnor Hall,
And many an oak that grew thereby.

Now nought was heard beneath the skies,
The sounds of busy life were still,
Save an unhappy lady's sighs,
That issued from that lonely pile.

"Leicester," she cried, "is this thy love
"That thou so oft has sworn to me,
"To leave me in this lonely grove,
"Immured in shameful privity?

"No more thou comest with lover's speed,
"Thy once beloved bride to see;
"But be she alive, or be she dead,
"I fear, stern Earl's, the same to thee.

"Not so the usage I receiv'd
"When happy in my father's hall:
"No faithless husband then me griev'd;
"No chilling fears did me appal.

“ I rose up with the cheerful morn,
“ No lark more blithe, no flow’r more gay ;
“ And like the bird that haunts the thorn,
“ So merrily sung the live-long day.

“ If that my beauty is but small,
“ Among court ladies all despised ;
“ Why didst thou rend it from that hall,
“ Where, scornful Earl, it well was priz’d ?

“ And when you first to me made suit,
“ How fair I was you oft would say !
“ And, proud of conquest—pluck’d the fruit,
“ Then left the blossom to decay.

“ Yes, now neglected and despis’d,
“ The rose is pale—the lily’s dead—
“ But he that once their charms so priz’d,
“ Is, sure, the cause those charms are fled.

“ For know, when sick’ning grief doth prey,
“ And tender love’s repaid with scorn,
“ The sweetest beauty will decay—
“ What flow’reth can endure the storm ?

“ At court, I’m told, is beauty’s throne,
“ Where every lady’s passing rare ;
“ That eastern flow’rs, that shame the sun,
“ Are not so glowing, not so fair.

“ Then Earl, why didst thou leave the beds
“ Where roses and where lilies vie,
“ To seek a primrose, whose pale shades
“ Must sicken—when those gaudes are by ?

“ Mong rural beauties I was one,
“ Among the fields wild flow’rs are fair ;
“ Some country swain might me have won,
“ And thought my beauty passing rare.

“ But, Leicester, or I much am wrong,
“ Or ’tis not beauty lures thy vows ;

“ Rather ambition’s gilded crown
“ Makes thee forget thy humble spouse.

“ Then, Leicester, why, again I plead,
“ (The injur’d surely may repine,)
“ Why didst thou wed a country maid,
“ When some fair princes might be thine ?

“ Why didst thou praise my humble charms,
“ And oh ! then leave them to decay ?
“ Why didst thou win me to thy arms,
“ Then leave me to mourn the live-long day ?

“ The village maidens of the plain
“ Salute me lowly as they go ;
“ Envious they mark my silken train,
“ Nor think a Countess can have woe.

“ The simple nymphs ! they little know ;
“ How far more happy’s their estate—
“ To smile for joy—than sigh for woe—
“ To be content—than to be great.

“ How far less blest am I than them !
“ Daily to pine and waste with care !
“ Like the poor plant that from its stem
“ Divided, feels the chilling air.

“ Nor, cruel Earl ! can I enjoy
“ The humble charms of solitude ;
“ Your minions proud my peace destroy,
“ By sullen frowns or pratings rude.

“ Last night, as sad I chanc’d to stray,
“ The village death-bell smote my ear ;
“ They wink’d aside, and seem’d to say,
“ Countess, prepare—thy end is near.

“ And now, while happy peasants sleep,
“ Here I sit lonely and forlorn ;
“ No one to sooth me as I weep,
“ Save Philomel on yonder thorn.

" My spirits flag—my hopes decay—
" Still that dread death-bell smites my ear,
" And many a boding seems to say,
" Countess, prepare—thy end is near."

Thus sore and sad that lady griev'd,
In Cumnor Hall so lone and drear,
And many a heart-felt sigh she heav'd,
And let fall many a bitter tear.

And ere the dawn of day appear'd
In Cumnor Hall so lone and drear,
Full many a piercing scream was heard,
And many a cry of mortal fear.

The death-bell thrice was heard to ring,
An aerial voice was heard to call,
And thrice the raven flapp'd his wings
Around the tow'rs of Cumnor Hall.

The mastiff howl'd at village door.
The oaks were shatter'd on the green;
Woe was the hour—for never more
That hapless Countess e'er was seen.

And in that manor now no more
Is cheerful feast and sprightly ball,
For ever since that dreary hour,
Have spirits haunted Cumnor Hall.

The village maids, with fearful glance,
Avoid the ancient moss-grown wall;
Nor ever lead the merry dance,
Among the groves of Cumnor Hall.

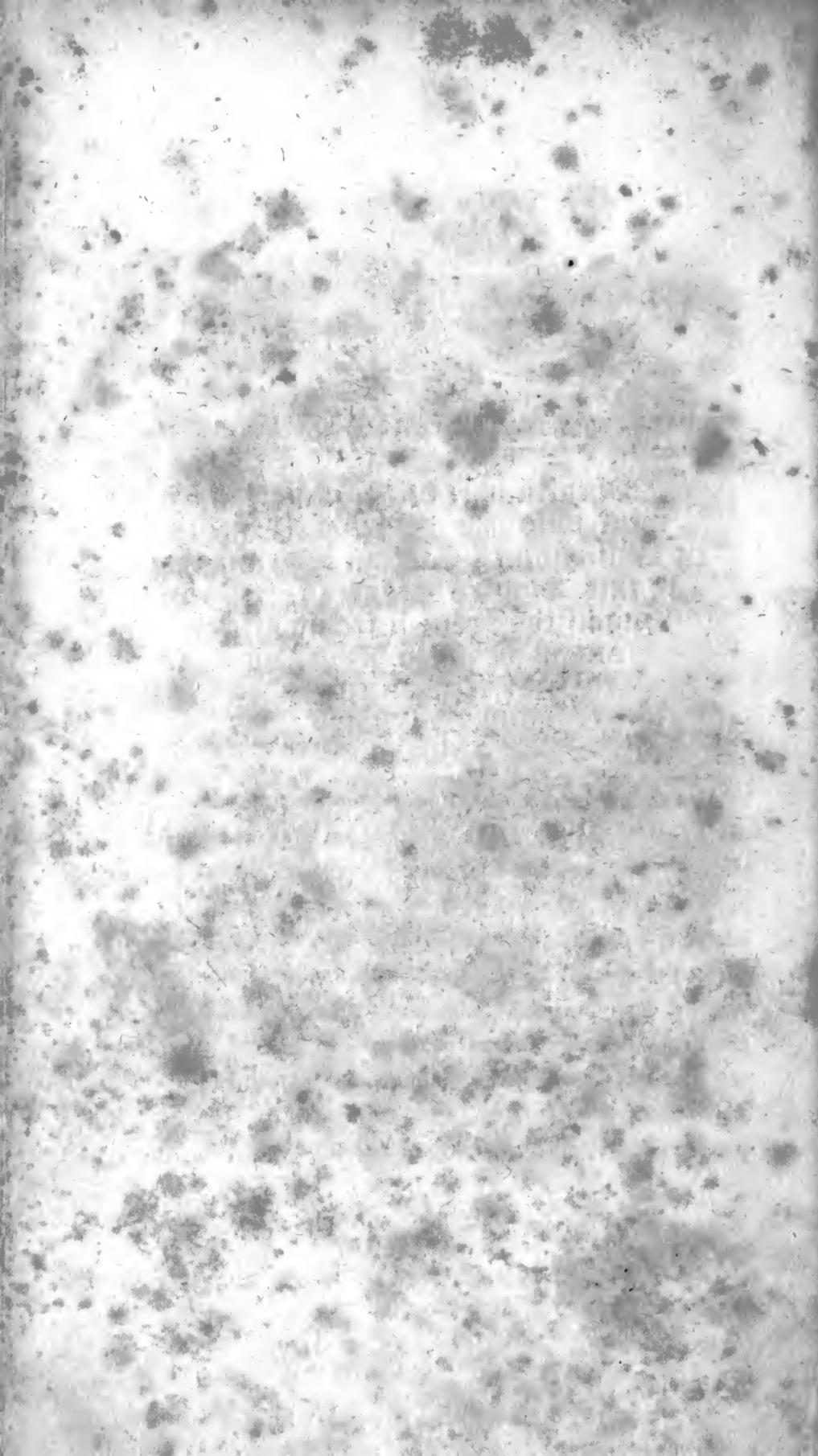
Full many a traveller oft hath sigh'd,
And pensive wept the Countess' fall,
As wandering onwards they've espied
The haunted tow'rs of Cumnor Hall.

A LETTER.

Whearin part of the Entertainment unto the Queen's Majestye at Kissingworth Castl in Warwicksheer in this Somers Progress—1575 is signified: from a freend officer attendant in the Court unto his freend a citizen and Merchaunt of London.

DE REGINA NOSTRA ILLUSTRISSIMA.

*Dum laniata ruat vicina ob Regna tumultus,
Læta suos inter genialibus ILLA diebus
(Gratia Diis) fruitur: Rupantur & ilia Codro.*



KENILWORTH.



UNTO MY GOOD FRIEND,

MASTER HUMPHREY MARTIN, MERCER.

AFTER my hearty commendations, I commend me heartily to you. Understand ye, that since, through God and good friends, I am here placed at court, as you know, in a worshipful room, whereby I am not only acquainted with the most, and well known to the best, and every officer glad of my company ; but also at present have power, while the council sits not, to go and to see things sight-worthy ; and to be present at any show or spectacle, any where were this progress is represented unto her highness : of

part of which sports, having taken some notes and observations—for I cannot be idle at any rate in the world—as well to put from me suspicion of sluggishness, as to take from you any doubt of my forgetfulness of your friendship; I have thought it meet to impart them unto you, as frankly, as friendly, and as fully, as I can. You know well, the Black Prince was never stained with disloyalty or ingratitude towards any; I dare be his warrant he will not begin with you, that hath at his hand so deeply deserved. But herein, the better for conceiving of my mind, and instruction of your's, you must give me leave a little, as well to preface my matter, as to discourse somewhat of Killingworth Castle, a territory of the right honourable, my singular good lord, my lord the Earl of Leicester; of whose incomparable cheer and entertainment there unto her majesty, I will show you a part, here, that could not see all; nor, had I seen all, could well report the half. Where things for the persons, place, time, cost, devices, strangeness and abundance, of all that ever I saw (and yet have I been, what un-

der my *Master Bomsted*, and what on my own affairs, while I occupied merchandize, both in France and Flanders long and many a day) I saw none any where so memorable, I tell you plain.

The Castle hath the name of Killingworth, but of truth, grounded upon faithful story, Kenilworth. It stands in Warwickshire, seventy-four miles north-west from London, and as it were in the centre of England; four miles somewhat south from Coventry, a proper city; and a like distance from Warwick, a fair county-town on the north. Of air sweet and wholesome, raised on an easily mounted hill, it is set evenly coasted with the front strait to the east, and hath the tenants and town about it, that pleasantly shift from dale to hill sundry where, with sweet springs bursting forth; and is so plentifully well sorted on every side into arable, mead, pasture, wood, water, and good air, as it appears to have need of nothing that may pertain to living or pleasure. To advantage, it hath, hard on the west, still nourished with many lively springs, a goodly pool of rare beauty, breadth, length, depth, and store of all kinds of fresh-water

fish, delicate, great and fat; and also of wild fowl beside. By a rare situation and natural agreement, this pool seems conjoined to the Castle, that on the west lays the head, as it were, upon the Castle's bosom, embraceth it on either side, south and north, with both the arms, and settles itself as in a reach a flight-shoot broad, stretching forth body and legs a mile or two westward: between a fair park on the one side, which by the brays is linked to the Castle on the south, sprinkled at the entrance with a few conies, that for colour and smallness of number seem to be suffered more for pleasure than commodity: And on the other side, north and west, a goodly chase; vast, wide, large, and full of red-deer and other stately game for hunting: Beautified with many delectable, fresh, and shaded bowers, arbours, seats, and walks, that with great art, cost, and diligence were very pleasantly appointed: Which also the natural grace, by the tall and fresh fragrant trees and soil, did so far forth commend, as *Diana* herself might have deigned there well enough to range for her pastime.

The left arm of this pool, northward, hath my Lord adorned with a beautiful bracelet of a fair timbered bridge, that is of fourteen feet wide and six hundred feet long ; railed on both sides, strongly planked for passage, reaching from the chase to the Castle. That thus in the midst it hath clear prospect over these pleasures on the back part ; and forward over all the town, and much of the country beside.

Here, too, is a special commodity at hand of sundry quarries of large building stone, the goodness whereof may the more easily be judged, in the building and ancient stateliness of the Castle, that (as by the name and histories well may be gathered) was first reared by *Kenulph*, and his young son *Kenelm*, born both indeed within the realm here, but yet of the race of Saxons ; and reigned Kings of Marchland from the year of our Lord 798, for 23 years together, above 770 years ago ; although the Castle hath one ancient, strong, and large keep, that is called *Cæsar's Tower*, rather, as I have good cause to think, for that it is square and high, formed after the manner of *Cæsar's Forts*, than that ever

he built it. Nay, now that I am a little in,
Master Martin, I will tell you all.

This Marchland, that stories call *Mercia*, is numbered in their books the fourth of the seven kingdoms that the Saxons had whilom here divided among them in the realm. It began in Anno Dom. 616, one hundred and thirty-nine years after Horsa and Hengist; continued in the race of 17 kings, 249 years together, and ended in Anno 875, raised from the rest (says the book) at first by Penda's presumption, overthrown at last by Buthred's Hascardy, and so fell to the kingdom of the West-Saxons. Marchland had it in London, Middlesex, herein a bishopric: had more of shires, Gloucester, Worcester, and Warwick, and herein a bishopric; Chester (that we now call Cheshire,) Derby, and Stafford, whereunto one bishop that had also part of Warwick and Shrewsbury, and his See at Coventry that was then aforetime at Lichfield; Hereto Hereford, wherein a bishopric that had more to jurisdiction, half Shrewsbury, part of Warwick and also of Gloucester, and the See at Hereford: Also had Oxford, Bucking-

ham, Hertford, Huntingdon, and half of Bedford; and to these Northampton, part of Leicester, and also Lincoln, whereunto a bishop; whose See at Lincoln city that sometime before was at Dorchester: hereto the rest of Leicester and in Nottingham, that of old had a special bishop, whose See was at Leicester; but afterwards put to the charge of the archbishop of York.

Now touching the name, that of old records I understand, and of ancient writers I find, is called Kenilworth; since most of the Worths in England stand nigh unto like lakes, and are either small islands, such one as the seat of this Castle hath been and easily may be, or is land-ground by pool or river, whereon willows, alders, or such like do grow: Which *Althamerus* writes precisely that the Germans call **Werd**: joining these two together with nighness also of the words and sybred of the tongues. I am the bolder to pronounce, that as our English Worth with the rest of our ancient language, was left us from the Germans, even so that their **Werd** and our Worth is all one thing in signification, common to us both even at this day. I take the

case so clear, that I say not so much as I might. Thus proface ye with the preface ; and now to the matter.

On Saturday the ninth of July, at long Ichington, a town and lordship of my lord's, within seven miles of Killingworth, his honour made her majesty great cheer at dinner, and pleasant pastime in hunting by the way after, that it was eight o'clock in the evening ere her highness came to Killingworth, where in the park, about a flight-shoot from the brays and first gate of the Castle, one of the ten Sibyls, that we read were all *Fatidicæ* and *Theobuleæ*, as parties and privy to the gods' gracious good wills, comely clad in a pall of white silk, pronounced a proper poesy in english rhyme and metre: of effect, how great gladness her goodness' presence* brought into every stead where it pleased her to come, and especially now into that place that had so long longed after

* The other of the early copies reads "gracious presence."

the same; ending with prophecy certain of much and long prosperity, health, and felicity. This her majesty benignly accepting, passed forth unto the next gate of the brays, which for the length, largeness and use, (as well it may so serve) they call now the tilt-yard, where a porter, tall of person, big of limb, and stern of countenance, wrapped also all in silk, with a club and keys of quantity according, had a rough speeche full of passions, in metre aptly made to the purpose: Whereby (as her highness was come within his ward,) he burst out in a great pang of impatience to see such uncouth trudging to and fro, such riding in and out, with such din and noise of talk within the charge of his office, whereof he never saw the like, nor had any warning afore, nor yet could make to himself any cause of the matter. At last, upon better view and avisement, as he pressed to come nearer confessing anon that he found himself pierced at the presence of a personage so evidently expressing an heroical sovereignty over all the whole estates, and by degrees there beside, calmed his astonishment, proclaims open gates and free pas-

sage to all, yields up his club, his keys, his office and all, and on his knees humbly prays pardon of his ignorance and impatience ; which her highness graciously granting, he caused his trumpeters that stood upon the wall of the gate there to sound up a tune of welcome ; which, beside the noble noise, was so much the more pleasant to behold, because these trumpeters, being six in number, were every one eight feet high, in due proportion of person beside, all in long garments of silk suitable, each with his silvery trumpet of five feet long, formed taper-wise, and straight from the upper part unto the lower end, where the diameter was 16 inches over ; and yet so tempered by art, that being very easy to the blast, they cast forth no greater noise, nor a more unpleasant sound for time and tune, than any other common trumpet, be it never so artificially formed. These harmonious blasters, from the fore-side of the gate, at her highness' entrance, where they began : walking upon the walls into the inner [court,] had this music maintained from them very delectably, while her highness all along this tilt-yard rode unto the inner gate, next the base-court of the

Castle, where the Lady of the Lake, (famous in king Arthur's book) with two nymphs waiting upon her, arrayed all in silks, awaited her highness's coming : From the midst of the pool, where upon a moveable island, bright blazing with torches, she floated to land, and met her majesty with a well-penned metre and matter after this sort : [viz.] First, of the ancestry of the Castle, who had been owners of the same e'en till this day, most always in the hands of the Earls of Leicester; how she had kept this Lake since king Arthur's days ; and now, understanding of her highness's hither coming, thought it both her office and duty in humble wise to discover her and her estate ; offering up the same, her lake, and power therein, with promise of repair unto the court. It pleased her highness to thank this lady, and to add withal : " We had thought indeed the lake had been ours, and do you call it yours now ? Well, we will herein commune more with you hereafter."

This pageant was closed up with a delectable harmony of hautboys, shalms, cornets, and such other loud music, that held on while her majesty

pleasantly so passed from thence toward the Castle-gate ; whereunto, from the base-court, over a dry valley cast into a good form, there was framed a fair bridge of twenty feet wide, and seventy feet long, gravelled for treading, railed on either part with seven posts on a side, that stood twelve feet asunder, thickened between with well proportioned turned pillars.

Upon the first pair of posts were set two comely square wire cages, three feet long, and two feet wide ; and high in them live bitterns, curlews, shovelers, hernshaws, godwits, and such like dainty birds, of the presents of *Sylvanus*, the god of fowl. On the second pair two great silvered bowls, featly apted to the purpose, filled with apples, pears, cherries, filberds, walnuts, fresh upon their branches, and with oranges, pomegranates lemons, and pippins, all for the gifts of *Pomona*, goddess of fruits. The third pair of posts, in two such silvered bowls, had (all in ears green and old) wheat, barley, oats, beans and pease, as the gifts of *Ceres*. The fourth post, on the left hand, in a like silvered bowl, had grapes in clusters, white and red,

gracified with their vine leaves: The match post against it had a pair of great white silver livery pots for wine: and before them two glasses of good capacity, filled full; the one with white wine, the other with claret, so fresh of colour, and of look so lovely, smiling to the eye of many, that by my faith methought, by their leering, they could have found in their hearts, (as the evening was hot,) to have kissed them sweetly and thought it no sin: And these were the potencial presents of *Bacchus*, the god of wine. The fifth pair had each a fair large tray, strewed with fresh grass*; and in them conger, burt, mullet, fresh herrens, oysters, salmon, crevis, and such like, from *Neptunus*, god of the sea. On the sixth pair of posts were set two ragged staves of silver, as my lord gives them in his arms, beautifully glittering of armour, thereupon depending bows, arrows, spears, shield, head-piece, gorget, corslets, swords, targets, and such like, for *Mars*' gifts, the god of war. And

* In the other early copy "strewed a little with fresh grass."

the aptlier (methought) was it that those ragged staves supported these martial presents, as well because these staves by their tines seem naturally meet for the bearing of armour, as also that they chiefly in this place might take upon them the principal protection of her highness' person, that so benignly pleased her to take harbour.

On the seventh posts, the last and next to the Castle, were there pight two fair bay branches of four feet high, adorned on all sides with lutes, viols, shalms, cornets, flutes, recorders, and harps, as the presents of *Phæbus*, the god of music, for rejoicing the mind, and also of physic, for health to the body.

Over the castle-gate was there fastened a table beautifully garnished above with her highness' arms, and featly with ivy wreaths bordered about, of ten feef square: the ground black, wherupon, in large white capital Roman fairly written, was a poem mentioning these gods and their gifts, thus presented unto her highness: which, because it remained unremoved, at leisure and pleasure I took it out, as followeth:—

AD MAJESTATEM REGIAM.

Jupiter-huc certos cernens te tendere gressus,
Ælicolas PRINCEPS actutum convocat Omnes :
 Obsequium præstare jubet TIBI quenque benignum.
 Unde suas Sylvanus Aves, Pomonaque fructus,
 Alma Ceres fruges, hilarantia vina Liaus,
Neptunus pisces, tela et tutantia *Mavrs*,
 Suave Melos *Phæbus*, solidamq; longamq; salutem.
 Dii TIBI REGINA hæc (cum sis DIGNISSIMA) præbent :
 Hoc TIBI, cum Domino, dedit se et werda KENELMI.

All the letters that mention her majesty, which are here put in capitals, for reverence and honour, were there made in gold.

But the night well spent, for that these verses by torch-light could easily be read ; a poet, therefore, in a long ceruleous garment, with side [i. e. long] and wide sleeves, Venetian-wise drawn up to his elbow, his doublet sleeves under that, of crimson, nothing but silk ; a bay garland on his head, and a scroll in his hand, making first an humble obeisance at her highness's coming, and pointing unto every present as he spake, the same were pronounced. Thus viewing the gifts, as

she passed, and how the posts might agree with the speech of the poet : At the end of the bridge and entry of the gate, was her highness received with a fresh delicate harmony of flutes, in performance of *Phæbus'* presents.

So passing into the inner court, her majesty (that never rides but alone) there, set down from her palfrey, was conveyed up to her chamber: When after did follow so great a peal of guns, and such lightening by fire-work a long space together, as though *Jupiter* would have shown himself to be no further behind with his welcome than the rest of his gods: and that he would have all the country to know, for indeed the noise and flame were heard and seen twenty miles off. Thus much, *Master Martin*, (that I remember me) for the first day's *bien venu*. Be you not weary, for I am scant in the midst of my matter.

On Sunday, the forenoon occupied as for the Sabbath-day, in quiet and vacation from work, and in divine service and preaching at the parish-church: the afternoon in excellent music of sundry sweet instruments, and in dancing of

lords and ladies, and other worshipful degrees, uttered with such lively agility, and commendable grace, as whether it might be more strange to the eye, or pleasant to the mind, for my part indeed I could not discern ; but it was exceedingly well, methought, in both.

At night late, as though *Jupiter* the last night had forgot for business, or forborne for courtesy and quiet, part of his welcome unto her highness appointed, now entering at the first into his purpose moderately (as mortals do) with a warning piece or two, proceeding on with increase, till at last the *Altitonant* [i. e. High Thunderer,] displays me his main power ; with blaze of burning darts flying to and fro, leams of stars coruscant, streams and hail of fiery sparks, lightnings of wild-fire on water and land, flight and shooting of thunderbolts, all with such continuance, terror and vehemency, that the heavens thundered, the waters surged, the earth shook, and in such sort surely, as had we not been assured that the fulminant deity was all hot in amity, and could not otherwise testify his welcome unto her highness, it would have

made me for my part, as hardy as I am, very vengeably afraid. This ado lasted until the midnight was passed, that it seemed well with me soon after, when I found me in my cabin. And this for the second day.

Monday was hot, and therefore her highness kept in till five o'clock in the evening; what time it pleased her to ride forth into the chase to hunt the hart of force: which found anon, and after sore chased, and chafed by the hot pursuit of the hounds, was fain of fine force, at last to take soil. There to behold the swift fleeting of the deer afore with the stately carriage of his head in his swimming, spread (for the quantity) like the sail of a ship; the hounds harrowing after as they had been a number of skiffs to the spoil of a Carvell: the one no less eager in purchase of his prey, than was the other earnest in safeguard of his life: so as the yearning of the hounds in continuance of their cry, the swiftness of the deer, the running of footmen, the galloping of horses, the blasting of horns, the hallooing and shouting of the huntsmen, with the excellent echoes between whiles from

the woods and waters in valleys resounding ; moved pastime delectable in so high a degree as for any person to take pleasure by most senses at once ; in mine opinion, there can be none in any way comparable to this : and 'specially in this place, that of nature is formed so fit for the purpose; in faith, *Master Martin*, if ye could with a wish, I would you had been at it: Well, the hart was killed, a goodly deer, but so ceased not the game yet.

For about nine o'clock, at the hither part of the chase, where torch light attended, out of the woods, in her majesty's return, there came roughly forth *Hombre Salvagio* [i. e. a Savage Man] with an oaken plant plucked up by the roots in his hand, himself foregrown all in moss and ivy; who, for personage, gesture, and utterance beside, countenanced the matter to very good liking ; and had speech to this effect : —That continuing so long in these wild wastes, wherein oft had he fared both far and near, yet happed he never to see so glorious an assembly before : and now cast into great grief of mind, for that neither by himself could he guess, nor knew

where else to be taught, what they should be, or who bore estate: Reports, some had he heard of many strange things, but broiled thereby so much the more in desire of knowledge. Thus, in great pangs, bethought he, and called he upon all his familiars and companions, the fawns, the satyrs, the nymphs, the dryades, and the hamadryades; but none making answer, whereby his care the more increasing, in utter grief and extreme refuge, called he aloud at last after his old friend *Echo*, that he wist would hide nothing from him, but tell him all, if she were here. "Here" (quoth *Echo*.) "Here, *Echo*, and art thou there? (says he) "Ah! how much hast thou relieved my careful spirits with thy courtesy onward. Ay me, good *Echo*, here is a marvellous presence of dignity; what are they, I pray thee, who is sovereign, tell me, I beseech thee, or else how might I know?" "I know," (quoth she.) "Knowest thou?" says he; "marry, that is exceedingly well: Why then, I desire thee, heartily show me what majesty, (for no mean degree is it) have we here: a king, or a queen?" "A queen!" (quoth *Echo*.)

“A queen!” says he, pausing, and wisely viewing awhile, “now full certainly seems thy tale to be true.” And proceeding by this manner of dialogue, with an earnest beholding her highness awhile, recounts he, first, how justly that former reports agree with his present sight, touching the beautiful lineaments of countenance, the comely proportion of body, the princely grace of presence, the gracious gifts of nature, with the rare and singular qualities of both body and mind in her majesty conjoined, and so apparent at eye. Then shortly rehearsing Saturday’s acts, of *Sibyl’s* salutation; of the Porter’s proposition; of his Trumpeters music; of the Lake Lady’s oration, and of the seven gods’ seven presents, he reported the incredible joy that all estates in the land have always of her highness wheresoever she came; ending with presage and prayer of perpetual felicity, and with humble subjection of him and his, and all that they may do. After this sort the matter went, with little difference, I guess, saving only in this point, that the thing which I here report in unpolished prose, was there

pronounced in good metre and matter, very well endited in rhyme. *Echo* finely framed, most aptly, by answers thus to utter all. And I shall tell you, *Master Martin*, by the mass, of a mad adventure—As this Savage, for the more submission, broke his tree asunder, and cast the top from him, it had almost light upon her highness's horse's head; whereat he startled, and the gentleman much dismayed. See the benignity of the prince: as the footmen looked well to the horse, and he of generosity soon calmed of himself—“No hurt, no hurt,” quoth her highness. Which words, I promise you, we were all glad to hear, and took them to be the best part of the play.

Tuesday, pleasant passing of the time with music and dancing; saving that toward night it liked her majesty to walk a foot into the chase over the bridge, where it pleased her to stand: while upon the pool, out of a barge, finely appointed for the purpose, to hear sundry kinds of very delectable music; thus recreated, and after some walk, her highness returned.

Wednesday, her majesty rode into the chase

a hunting again of the hart of force. The deer, after his property, for refuge took the soil ; but so mastered by hot pursuit on all parts, that he was taken quick in the pool : The watermen held him up hard by the head, while at her highness's commandment, he lost his ears for a ransom, and so had pardon for life.

Thursday, the fourteenth of this July, and the sixth day of her majesty's coming, a great sort of Ban-dogs were there tied in the outer court, and thirteen bears in the inner. Whosoever made the pannel, there were enough for a quest, and one for challenge an need were. A wight of great wisdom and gravity seemed their foreman to be, had it come to a jury ; but it fell out that they were caused to appear there upon no such matter, but only to answer to an ancient quarrel between them and the Ban-dogs, in a cause of controversy that had long depcnded, been obstinately full often debated, with sharp and biting arguments on both sides, and could never be decided : grown now to so marvellous a malice, that with spiteful upbraiding and uncharitable chaffings,

always they fret, as any where the one can hear, see, or smell the other : and indeed at utter deadly feud. Many a maimed member, (God wot) bloody face, and a torn coat, hath the quarrel cost between them ; so far likely the less yet now to be appeased, as there wants not partakers to back them on both sides.

Well, Sir, the bears were brought forth into the court, the dogs set to them to argue the points even face to face ; they had learned counsel also on both parts : what, may they be counted partial that are retainers but to a side ? I ween no. Very fierce both the one and the other, and eager in argument : if the dog in pleading should pluck the bear by the throat, the bear with traverse would claw him again by the scalp : Confess an he list, but avoid he could not, that was bound to the bar ; and his counsel told him that it could be to him no policy in pleading. Therefore thus with fending and proving, with plucking and tugging, scratching and biting, by plain tooth and nail on one side and the other, such expense of blood and leather was there between them, as a month's licking, I ween, will

not recover ; and yet remain as far out as ever they were.

It was a sport very pleasant of these beasts; to see the bear with his pink eyes leering after his enemies approach, the nimbleness and wait of the dog to take his advantage, and the force and experience of the bear again to avoid the assault : If he was bitten in one place, how he would pinch in an another to get free ; that if he was taken once, then what shift, with biting, with clawing, with roaring, tossing and tumbling, he would work to wind himself from them ; and when he was loose, to shake his ears twice or thrice with the blood and the slaver about his physiognomy, was a matter of a goodly relief.

As this sport was held at day-time, in the Castle, so was there abroad at night very strange and sundry kinds of fire-works, compelled by cunning to fly to and fro, and to mount very high into the air upward, and also to burn unquenchably beneath the water, contrary, ye wot, to fire's kind : This intermingled with a great peal of guns, which all gave both to the ear and to the eye the greater grace and delight, for that

with such order and art they were tempered, touching time and continuance, that was about two hours space.

Now, within also, in the mean time, was there showed before her highness, by an Italian, such feats of agility, in goings, turnings, tumblings, castings, hops, jumps, leaps, skips, springs, gambols, somersets, caperings, and flights ; forward, backward, sideways, downward, and upward, with sundry windings, gyrings and circumflexions ; all so lightly and with such easiness, as by me, in few words, it is not expressible by pen or speech, I tell you plainly. I blessed me, by my faith, to behold him ; and began to doubt whether it was a man or a spirit ; and I ween had doubted me till this day, had it not been that anon I bethought me of men that can reason and talk with two tongues, and with two persons at once, sing like birds, courteous of behaviour, of body strong, and in joints so nimble withal, that their bones seemed as lythie and pliant as sinews. They dwell in a happy island (as the book terms it) four months.

sailing southward beyond Ethiopia. Nay, *Master Martin*, I tell you no jest; for both *Diodorus Siculus*, an ancient Greek historiographer, in his third book of the acts of the old Egyptians; and also from him *Conrad Gesnerus*, (a great and learned man, and a very diligent writer in all good arguments of our time, but deceased;) in the first chapter of his *Mithridates*, reporteth the same. As for this fellow, I cannot tell what to make of him, save that I may guess his back be metalled like a lamprey, that has no bone, but a line like a lute-string. Well, Sir, let him pass and his feats, and this day's pastime withal, for here is as much as I can remember me for Thursday's entertainment.

Friday and *Saturday* there were no open shows abroad, because the weather inclined to some moisture and wind, that very seasonably tempered the drought and the heat, caused by the continuance of fair weather and sunshine all the while since her majesty's thither coming.

On *Sunday*, opportunely, the weather broke up again; and after divine service in the parish

church for the sabbath-day, and a fruitful sermon there in the forenoon: At afternoon, in worship of this Kenilworth Castle, and of God and Saint Kenelm, whose day, forsooth, by the Calendar this was, a solemn bridal of a proper couple was appointed: Set in order in the tilt-yard, to come and make their show before the Castle in the great court, where was a pight a comely Quintain for feats at arms, which when they had done, to march out at the north gate of the Castle homeward again into the town.

And thus were they marshalled. First, all the lusty lads and bold bachelors of the parish, suitable habited every wight, with his blue buckram bride-lace upon a branch of green broom (because rosemary is scant theye) tied on his left arm, for on that side lies the heart; and his alder pole for a spear in his right hand, in martial order ranged on afore, two and two in a rank: Some with a hat, some in a cap, some a coat, some a jerkin, some for lightness in doublet and hose, clean truss'd with points afore; Some boots and no spurs, this spurs and no boots, and he again nei-

ther one nor other: One had a saddle, another a pad or a pannel fastened with a cord, for girths were geazon: And these, to the number of sixteen wights, riding men and well be-seen: But the bridegroom foremost in his father's tawny worsted jacket, (for his friends were fain that he should be a bride-groom before the queen) a fair straw hat with a capital crown, steeple-wise on his head; pair of harvest gloves on his hands, as a sign of good husbandry; a pen and ink-horn at his back, for he would be known to be bookish: lame of a leg that in his youth was broken at foot-ball; well beloved of his mother, who lent him a new muffler for a napkin, that was tied to his girdle for losing it. It was no small sport to mark this minion in his full appointment, that, through good tuition, became as formal in his action as had he been a bridegroom indeed; with this special grace by the way, that ever as he would have framed to to himself the better countenance, with the worst face he looked.

Well, Sir, after these horsemen, a lively morrice-dance according to the ancient man-

ner: six dancers, maid-marian, and the fool. Then three pretty pucelles, as bright as a breast of bacon, of thirty years old a-piece; that carried three special spice-cakes of a bushel of wheat (they had by measure, out of my lord's bake-house) before the bride, Cicely, with set countenance and lips so demurely simpering, as it had been a mere cropping of a thistle. After these, a lovely loober-worts, freckle-faced, red-headed, clean trussed in his doublet and his hose, taken up now indeed by commission, for that he was loath to come forward, for reverence belike of his new cut canvas doublet; and would by his good will have been but a gazer, but found to be a meet actor for his office; that was to bear the bride-cup, formed of a sweet sucket barrel, a fair turn'd foot set to it, all seemly besilvered and parcel gilt adorned with a beautiful branch of broom, gaily begilded for rosemary: from which two broad bride laces of red and yellow buckram begilded, and gallantly streaming by such wind as there was, for he carried it aloft: this gentle cup-bearer had his freckled physiognomy somewhat unhappily infested,

as he went by the busy flies, that flocked about the bride-cup, for the sweetness of the sucket that it savoured of; but he, like a tall fellow, withstood their malice stoutly—see what manhood may do—beat them away, killed them by scores, stood to his charge, and marched on in good order.

Then followed the worshipful bride, led, after the country manner, between two ancient parishioners, honest townsmen. But a stale stallion and a well spread (hot as the weather was) God wot, and ill-smelling was she; thirty years old,* of colour brown-bay, not very beautiful indeed, but ugly, foul, and ill-favoured; yet marvellous fond of the office, because she heard say she should dance before the queen, in which feat she thought she would foot it as finely as the best: Well, after this bride there came, by two and two, a dozen damsels for bride-maids, that for favour, attire, for fashion and cleanliness, were as meet for such a bride as a tureen

* The other early copy reads “thirty-five years old.”

ladle for a porridge-pot: More, but for fear of carrying all clean, had been appointed, but these few were enough.

As the company in this order were come into the court, marvellous were the martial acts that were done there that day. The bride-groom, for pre-eminence, had the first course at the quintain, and broke his spear with true hardiment; but his mare in her manege did a little so titubate, that much ado had his manhood to sit in his saddle, and escape the foil of a fall; with the help of his hand, yet he recovered himself, and lost not his stirrups (for he had none to his saddle) had no hurt as it happened; but only that his girth burst, and lost his pen and ink-horn which he was ready to weep for: but his handkercher, as good hap was, found he safe at his girdle: that cheered him somewhat, and had good regard it should not be soiled. For though heat and cold had upon sundry occasions made him sometimes to sweat, and sometimes rheumatic, yet durst he be bolder to blow his nose and wipe his face with the flappet of his fathers's jacket, than with his mother's muffler: 'tis a goodly

matter, when youth are mannerly brought up, in fatherly love and motherly awe.

Now, Sir, after the bride-groom had made his course, ran the rest of the band a while in some order; but soon after, tag and rag, cut and long tail: where the specialty of the sport was, to see how some for their slackness had a good bob with the bag; and some for their haste, too, would topple down-right, and come down tumbling to the post: Some striving so much at the first setting out, that it seemed a question between the man and the beast, whether the course should be made on horseback or on foot: and put forth with the spurs, then would run his race by as among the thickest of the throng, that down came they together, hand over hand: Another, while he directed his course to the quintain, his jument would carry him to a mare among the people; so his horse was as amorous, as himself adventurous: Another, too, would run and miss the quintain with his staff, and hit the board with his head.

Many such frolicsome games were there

among these riders ; who, by and by afterwards, upon a greater courage, left their quintaining, and ran at one another. There to see the stern countenances, the grim looks, the courageous attempts, the desperate adventures, the dangerous curvets, the fierce encounters, whereby the buff at the man, and the counter-buff at the horse, that both semetimes came toppling to the ground : By my troth, *Master Martin* ; 'twas a lively pastime : I believe it would have moved a man to a right merry mood, though it had been told him that his wife lay dying.

And hereto followed as good a sport, methought, presented in an historical cue, by certain good-hearted men of Coventry, my lord's neighbours there : who understanding among them the thing that could not be hidden from any : how careful and studious his honour was, that by all pleasant recreations her highness might best find herself welcome, and be made gladsome and merry, (the ground-work indeed and foundation of his lordship's mirth, and gladness of us all) made petition that they might renew now their old storial

show: of argument how the Danes whilom here in a troublous season were for quietness borne withal and suffered in peace, that anon, by outrage and insupportable insolency, abusing both Ethelred the king, then, and all estates every where beside; at the grievous complaint and counsel of Huna, the king's chieftain in wars, on Saint Brice's night, Anno Dom. 1012, (as the book says, that falleth yearly on the thirteenth of November) were all dispatched and the realm rid. And for because that the matter mentioneth how valiantly our English women, for love of their country, behaved themselves, expressed in action and rhymes after their manner, they thought it might move some mirth to her majesty the rather. The thing, said they, is grounded in story, and for pastime wont to be played in our city yearly: without ill example of manners, papistry, or any superstition: and else did so occupy the heads of a number, that likely enough would have had worse meditations: had an ancient beginning and a long continuance 'till now of late laid down, they knew no cause why, unless it was by

the zeal of certain of their preachers; men very commendable for their behaviour and learning, and sweet in their sermons, but somewhat too sour in preaching away their pastime: they wished therefore, that as they should continue their good doctrine in pulpit, so, for matters of policy and governance of the city, they would permit them to the mayor and the magistrates: and said, by my faith, *Master Martin*, they would make their humble petition unto her highness, that they might have their plays up again.

But aware, keep back, make room now, here they come—

And first, Captain Cox, an odd man, I promise you: by profession a mason, and that right skilful: very cunning in fence, and hardy as Gawain; for his ton-sword hangs at his table's end; great oversight hath he in matters of story: For as for *King Arthur's Book*; *Huon of Bordeaux*; *The Four Sons of Aymon*; *Bevis of Hampton*; *The Squire of Low Degree*; *The Knight of Courtesy*, and the *Lady Faguell*; *Frederick of Geneya*; *Sir Eglamour*; *Sir Tryc-*

mour; Sir Lamwell; Sir Isenbras; Sir Gawain; Oliver of the Castle; Lucrece and Euryalus; Virgil's Life; The Castle of Ladies; The Widow Edyth; The King and the Tanner; Friar Rush; Howleglas; Gargantua; Robin Hood; Adam Bell, Clym of the Clough, and William of Clodesley; The Churl and the Bird; The Seven Wise Masters; The Wife laft in a Morel's-skin; The sack full of News; The Serjeant that became a Friar; Scogan; Colin Clout; The Friar and the Boy; Elynour Rumming; and The Nutbrown Maid; with many more than I rehearse here—I believe he hath them all at his fingers ends.

Then in philosophy, both moral and natural, I think he be as naturally overseen; beside poetry and astronomy, and other hid sciences, as I may guess by the ombery of his books; whereof part as I remember, *The Shepherd's Kalendar; The Ship of Fools; Daniel's Dreams; The Book of Fortune; Stans Puer ad Mensam; The Highway to the Spittle-house; Julian of Brentford's Testament; The Castle of Love; The Budget of Demands; The Hundred Merry*

Tales; *The Book of Riddles*; *The Seven Sorrows of Women*; *The Proud Wives Pater-Noster*; *The Chapman of a Pennyworth of Wit*. Besides his ancient plays, *Youth and Charity*; *Hickskorner*; *Nugizee*; *Impatient Poverty*; and herewith Doctor Boord's *Breviary of Health*. What should I rehearse here; what a bunch of ballads and songs, all ancient: as *Broom broom on Hill*; *So woe is me begone, trolly lo*; *Over Whinny Meg*; *Hey ding a ding*; *Bonny lass upon a green*; *My bonny one gave me a beck*; *By a bank as I lay*: and a hundred more he hath fair wrapt up in parchment, and bound with a whipcord. And as for Almanacs of antiquity, (a point for Ephemerides) I ween he can show from Jasper Laet of Antwerp unto Nostradamus of France, and thence unto our John Securiz of Salisbury. To stay ye no longer herein, I dare say he hath as fair a library of these sciences, and as many goodly monuments both in prose and poetry, and at afternoons can talk as much without book, as any inn-holder between Brentford and Bagshot, what degree soever he be.

Beside this, in the field a good marshal at musters; of very great credit and trust in the town here; for he has been chosen ale-conner many a year, when his betters have stood by; and hath ever acquitted himself with such estimation, as to taste of a cup of *Niphilate*, his judgment will be taken above the best in the parish, be his nose ne'er so red.

Captain Cox came marching on valiantly before, clean trussed and gartered above the knee, all fresh in a velvet cap (Master Golding lent it him) flourishing with his ton-sword; and another fence-master with him: Thus in the forward making room for the rest. After them, proudly pricked on foremost, the Danish lance-knights on horseback, and then the English: Each with their alder pole martially in their hand. Even at the first entry, the meeting waxed somewhat warm; that by and by, kindled with courage on both sides, grew from a hot skirmish unto a blazing battle: first by spear and shield, outrageous in their races as rams at their rut; with furious encounters, that together they tumbled to the dust, sometimes horse and man, and after

fall to it with sword and target, good bangs on both sides. The fight so ceasing, but the battle not so ended : then followed the footmen ; both the hosts one after the other : — first marching in ranks ; then warlike turning ; then from ranks into squadrons ; then into triangles ; from that into rings, and so winding out again. A valiant captain of great prowess, as fierce as a fox assaulting a goose, was so hardy to give the first stroke : then got they so grisly together, that great was the activity that day to be seen there on both sides : the one very eager for purchase of prey, the other utterly stout for redemption of liberty : thus, quarrel enflamed the fury on both sides : twice the Danes had the better, but at the last conflict, beaten down, overcome, and many led captive for triumph by our English women.

This was the effect of this show ; that as it was handled, made much matter of good pastime, brought all, indeed, into the great court, even under her highness's window, to have seen : but as unhappy it was for the bride, that came thither too soon, (and yet it was four o'clock)

for her highness beholding in the chamber delectable dancing indeed, and therewith the great throng and unruliness of the people, was cause that this solemnity of bridal and dancing had not the full muster that was hoped for. Her highness also saw but little of the Coventry play, and commanded it therefore on the Tuesday following to have it full out : as accordingly it was presented ; whereat her majesty laughed well : They were the merrier, and so much the more, because her highness had given them two bucks and five marks in money, to make merry together : They prayed for her majesty, long happily to reign, and oft to come thither, that oft they might see her ; and what rejoicing upon their ample reward, and what triumphing upon the good acceptance, they vaunted their play was never so dignified, nor ever any players before so beatified.

Thus, tho' the day took an end, yet slipped not the night all sleeping away : for as neither office nor obsequy ceased at any time to the full, to perform the plot his honour had appointed, so after supper was there a play of a very good

theme presented: but so set forth, by the actors well handling, that pleasure and mirth made it seem very short, tho' it lasted two good hours and more. But stay, *Master Martin*, all is not done yet.

After the play, out of hand followed a most delicious and (if I may so term it) an ambrosial banquet: whereof, whether I might more muse at the daintiness, shapes, and the cost; or else, at the variety and number of the dishes (that were three hundred) for my part, I could little tell then; and now less, I assure you. Her majesty eat smallly or nothing; which understood, the courses were not so orderly served and sizely set down, but were, by and by, as disorderly wasted and coarsely consumed; more courtly, methought, than courteously: But that was no part of the matter; it might please and be liked, and do that it came for, then was all well enough.

Unto this banquet there was appointed a masque; for riches of array of an incredible cost: but the time being so far spent, and very late in the night now, was cause that it came not

forth to the show ; And thus for *Sunday's* season, having staid you the longer, according to the matter, here make I an end : Ye may breathe ye awhile.

Monday the eighteenth of this July, the weather being hot, her highness kept the castle for coolness, 'till about five o'clock, her majesty in the chase hunted the hart (as afore) of force : that whether were it by the cunning of the huntsmen, or by the natural desire of the deer, or else by both ; anon he got him to soil again, which raised the accustomed delight : a pastime indeed so entirely pleasant, as whereof at times who may have the full and free fruition, can find no more satiety (I ween) for the recreation, than of their good viands at times for their sustenance.

Well, the game was gotten : and her highness returning, came there upon a swimming mermaid, (that from top to tail was eighteen feet long,) *Triton*, Neptune's blaster : who with his trumpet formed of a wrinkled welk, as her majesty was in sight, gave sound very shrill and sonorous, in sign he had an em-

bassy to pronounce. Anon her highness was coming upon the bridge, whereunto he made his fish to swim the swifter; he then declared—

“ How the supreme salsipotent monarch Nep-

“ tune, the great god of the swelling seas, prince

“ of profundities, and sovereign signor of all

“ lakes, fresh waters, rivers, creeks, and gulphs;

“ understanding how a cruel Knight, one *Sir*

“ *Bruce sans pitié*, a mortal enemy unto ladies

“ of estate, had long lain about the banks of this

“ pool, in wait with his bands here, to distress

“ the *Lady of the Lake*, whereby she had been

“ restrained not only from having any use of

“ her ancient liberty and territories in these

“ parts, but also of making repair and giving

“ attendance unto you, noble queen, (quo’ he)

“ as she would; she promised, and also should:

“ doth therefore signify, and hereto, of you, as of

“ her good liege and dear friend, make this re-

“ quest, that you will deign but to show your per-

“ son toward this pool; whereby your only pre-

“ sence shall be matter sufficient of abandoning

“ this uncourteous Knight, and putting all his

“bands to flight, and also deliver the lady out of
“this thraldom.”

Moving herewith from the bridge, and fleeting more into the pool, charged he in *Neptune's* name *Æolus* with all his winds, the waters with his springs, his fish and fowl, and all his clients in the same, that they ne be so hardy in any force to stir, but keep them calm and quiet while this queen be present. At which petition her highness staying, it appeared straight how *Sir Bruce* became unseen, his bands scaled, and the lady, by and by, with her two nymphs floating upon her moveable islands, *Triton*, on his mermaid skimming by, approached towards her highness on the bridge—as well to declare that her majesty's presence had so graciously thus wrought her deliverance, as also to excuse her not coming to court as she promised, and chiefly to present her majesty, as a token of her duty and good heart, for her highness' re-creation, with this gift: which was, *Arion*, that excellent and famous musician; in tire and appointment strange, well seeming to his per-

son, riding aloft upon his old friend the dolphin, that from head to tail was four and twenty feet long, and swam hard by these islands. Here-with, *Arion*, for these great benefits, after a few well-couched words unto her majesty of thanksgiving, in supplement of the same ; began a delectable ditty of a song well apted to a melodious noise ; compounded of six several instruments, all covert, casting sound from the dolphin's belly within : *Arion*, the seventh, sitting thus singing (as I say) without.

Now, Sir, the ditty in metre so aptly endited to the matter, and after by voice deliciously delivered. The song, by a skilful artist into his parts so sweetly sorted ; each part in his instrument so clean and sharply touched ; every instrument again in his kind so excellently tunable ; and this in the evening of the day, resounding from the calm waters, where the presence of her majesty, and longing to listen, had utterly damped all noise and din ; the whole harmony conveyed in time, tune, and temper thus incomparable melodious ; with what pleasure, (*Master Martin*) with what sharpness of conceit, with

what lively delight, this might pierce into the hearer's hearts, I pray ye imagine yourself, as ye may; for, so God judge me, by all the wit and cunning I have, I cannot express, I promise you. "Mais j'ai bien vu cela, Monsieur, que "fort grande est la pouvoir qu'avoit la tres noble "science de Musique sur l'esprit humain." Perceive ye me? I have told you a great matter now: As for me, surely I was lulled in such liking, and so loath to leave off, that much ado a good while after had I, to find me where I was. And take ye this by the way, that for the small skill in music that God hath sent me (you know it is somewhat,) I'll set the more by myself while my name is *Laneham*; and, grace of God, music is a noble art!

But stay a while, see a short wit: by troth I had almost forgot. This day was a day of grace beside, wherein were advanced five gentlemen of worship unto the degree of Knighthood; *Sir Thomas Cecil*; son and heir unto the right honourable the lord treasurer, *Sir Henry Cobham*, brother unto the Lord Cobham; *Sir Thomas Stanhope*; *Sir Arthur Basset*; and *Sir*

Thomas Tresham. And also by her highness' accustomed mercy and charity, nine were cured of the painful and dangerous disease called the king's evil; for that kings and queens of this realm, without other medicine, save only by handling and prayers, do cure it: Bear with me, though perchance I place not those gentlemen in my recital here, after their estates; for I am neither a good herald of arms, nor yet know how they are set in the subsidy books: men of great worship I understand they are all.

Tuesday, according to commandment, came our Coventry men. What their matter was, of her highness' mirth and good acceptance, and reward unto them, and of their rejoicing thereat, I have informed you before, and so say the less now.

Wednesday, in the forenoon, preparation was in hand for her majesty to have supped in Wedgenall, three miles west from the Castle, a goodly park of the queen's majesty.* For

* The Duchess of Portland's copy reads "a goodly park of the right honourable my very good lord the

that cause a fair pavilion, and other provision was accordingly thither sent and prepared : but by means of the weather not so clearly disposed, the matter was countermanded again. Had her highness happened this day to have come abroad, there was made ready a device of goddesses and nymphs, which, as well for the ingenious argument, as for the well handling of it in rhyme and enditing, would undoubtedly have gained great liking, and moved no less delight. Of the particularities whereof, however, I cease to entreat, lest like the bungling carpenter, by mis-sorting the pieces, I mar a good frame in the bad setting up ; or by my bad tempering beforehand, blemish the beauty, when it should be reared up indeed. This day also was there such earnest talk and appointment of removing, that I gave over my noting, and hearkened after my horse.

Marry, Sir, I must tell you : As all endeavour

Earl of Warwick." It still belongs to that noble family, and is now called *Wedgnock Park*.—*Nichols's Progresses*, 1788, vol. i.

was to move mirth and pastime (as I told you) even so, a ridiculous device of an ancient minstrel and his song, was prepared to have been proffered, if meet time and place had been found for it. Once in a worshipful company, where I chanced to be, full appointed, he recounted his matter in sort as it should have been uttered. What I noted, here thus, I tell you.—

A person very meet seemed he for the purpose, of forty five years old, appareled partly as he would himself. His cap of his head, seemly rounded tonsor-wise ; fair combed, that with a sponge daintily dipped in a little capon's grease was finely smoothed, to make it shine like a mallard's wing. His beard smugly shaven ; and yet his shirt after the new trick, with ruffs fair starched, sleeked and glistening like a pair of new shoes ; marshaled in good order with a setting-stick, and stout that every ruff stood up like a wafer. A side gown of Kendal-green, after the freshness of the year now ; gathered at the neck with a narrow gorget, fastened afore with a white clasp, and a keeper, close up to the chin ; but easily for heat to undo when he list,

seemly begirt in a red Cadiz girdle ; from that a pair of capped Sheffield knives hanging to a side : Out of his bosom drawn forth a lappet of his napkin, edged with blue lace, and marked with a truelove [knot] a heart, and a D. for *Damian*, for he was but a batchelor yet.

His gown had side [i. e. long] sleeves down to mid-leg, slit from the shoulder to the hand, and lined with white cotton. His doublet-sleeves of black worsted ; upon them a pair of poignets [i. e. wristbands] of tawny camblet, laced along the wrist with blue threaden points ; a welt toward the hand of fustian-a-napes : a pair of red nether-stocks ; a pair of pumps on his feet, with a cross cut at the toes for corns ; not new indeed, yet cleanly blacked with soot, and shining as a shoe-ing horn. About his neck, a red ribband suitable to his girdle. His harp in good grace dependent before him ; his wrist tied to a green lace and hanging by. Under the gorget of his gown, a fair flaggon chain of pewter (for silver) as a *Squire Minstrel of Middlesex* ; that travelled the country this summer season unto fairs, and worshipful men's houses.

From his chain hung an escutcheon, with metal and colour, resplendent upon his breast, of the ancient arms of *Islington*: Upon a question whereof, he, as one that was well schooled, and conned his lesson perfect without book to answer at full, if question were asked him, declared : " How the " worshipful village of Islington in Middlesex, " well known to be one of the most ancient and " best towns in England next to London at this " day, for the faithful friendship of long time " shown, as well at Cook's feast in Aldersgate- " street yearly upon Holy-rood day, as also at " all solemn bridals in the city of London all " the year after ; in well serving them of fur- " mety for porridge, not oversodden till it be " too weak : of milk for their flawnes, not " pild nor chalked ; of cream for their custards, " not frothed nor thickened with flour ; and of " butter for their pasties and pie-paste, not made " of well curds, nor gathered of whey in sum- " mer, nor mingled in winter with salt butter " watered or washed ; did obtain long ago, these " worshipful arms in colour and form as you see : " which are—the arms : a field *Argent*, as the

“field and ground indeed wherein the milk-wives
“of this worthy town, and every man else in his
“faculty doth trade for his living. On a fess
“*tenne*, three plates between threē milk-tan-
“kards *proper*. The three milk-tankards, as
“the proper vessels wherein the substance and
“matter of their trade is to and fro transported.
“The fess *tenne*, which is a colour of betokening
“doubt and suspicion; so as suspicion and good
“heed-taking, as well as to their markets and ser-
“vants, as to their customers that they trust
“not too far, may bring unto them plates, that
“is coined silver; three, that is sufficient and
“plenty; for so that number in armoury may well
“signify.

“For crest, upon a wad of oat-straw for a
“wreath, a bowl of furmety. Wheat (as you
“know) is the most precious gift of *Ceres*; and
“in the midst of it, sticking, a dozen of horn
“spoons in a bunch, as the instrument meetest
“to eat furmety porridge withal: a dozen, as a
“number complete for full cheer or a banquet;
“and of horn, as of a substance more estimable
“than is made for a great deal; being neither

“so churlish in weight, as metal; nor so froward and brittle to manure, as stone; nor yet so soily in use, nor rough to the lips, as wood; “but light, pliant, and smooth: that with a little licking, will always be kept as clean as a die. With your patience, Gentlemen,” (quoth the Minstrel) “be it said; were it not indeed that horns be so plenty, hornware, I believe, would be more set by than it is; and yet there are in our parts, those that will not stick to avow, that many an honest man, both in city and country, hath had his house by horning well upholden, and a daily friend also at need: And this with your favour may I further affirm; a very ingenious person was he, that for dignity of the stuff, could thus by spooning devise to advance the horn so near to the head. With great congruity also were these horn-spoons put to the wheat; as a token and portion of *Cornucopiae*, the horn of *Achelous*; which the *Maiades* did fill with all good fruits, corn, and grain; and afterwards did consecrate unto abundance and plenty.

“This scutcheon with beasts, very aptly

“agreeing both to the arms and to the trade of
“the bearers; gloriously supported. Between a
“grey mare, (a beast meetest for carrying of milk-
“tankards) her pannel on her back, as always rea-
“dy for service at every feast and brid-ale at
“need; her tail displayed at most ease; and her
“filly foal, with a fallow and flaxen mane after
“the sire.

“In the scroll undergraven (quoth he) is
“there a proper word, an hemistich, well squar-
“ing with all the rest, taken out of Salerne’s
“chapter of things that most nourish man’s
“body: *Lac, Caseus, infans.* That is: ‘good
“milk, and young cheese.’ And thus much,
“Gentlemen, an please you (quoth he) for the
“arms of our worshipful town:” And there-
withal made a mannerly leg, and so held his
peace.

As the company paused, and the minstrel
seemed to gape after praise for his *beau parle*:
and because he had rendered his lesson so well,
says a good fellow of the company, “I am sorry
“to see how much the poor minstrel mistakes
“the matter; for indeed the arms are thus:—

“Three milk-tankards proper, in a field of
“clouted cream, three green cheeses upon a
“shelf of cake-bread. The furmety bowl and
“horn-spoons; cause their profit comes all by
“horned beasts. Supported by a mare with a gal-
“led back, and therefore still covered with a pan-
“nel, fisking with her tail for flies, and her filly
“foal neighing after the dam for suck. The
“words *Lac, Caseus infans*, that is, a fresh cheese
“and cream, the common cry that these milk-
“wives make in London streets yearly betwixt
“Easter and Whitsuntide: and this is the very
“matter, I know it well enough:” and so ended
his tale and sat him down again.

Hereat every man laughed much, save the Minstrel; that though the fool was made privy all was but for sport, yet to see himself thus crossed with a contrary cue that he looked not for, would strait have given over all, and waxed very wayward, eager and sour: howbeit at last, by some entreaty and many fair words, with sack and sugar, we sweetened him again; and afterward he became as merry as a pye. Appearing then afresh, in his full formality, with a

lovely look ; after three lowly courtesies, cleared his voice with a hem and reach, and spat out withal ; wiped his lips with the hollow of his hand, for filling his napkin ; tempered a string or two with his wrest, and after a little warbling on his harp for a prelude, came forth with a solemn song, warranted for story out of king Arthur's acts, the 1st book and 26th chapter, whereof I got a copy ; and that is this, viz.

THE MINSTREL'S SONNET.

So it befel upon a Pentecost day,
When King Arthur at Camelot kept court royal,
With his comely Queen, dame Guenever the gay,
And many bold Barons sitting in hall ;
Ladies appareled in purple and pall,
When Heralds in hukes herried full by,
Largess, Largess, Chevaliers tres hardy !

A doughty Dwarf unto the uppermost deas
Right pertly 'gan prick, and kneeling on knee,
With steven full stout amidst all the press,
Said, hail, sir king, God thee save, and see
King Ryence of North-Wales greeteth well thee,

And bids that thy beard anon thou him send,
Or else from thy jaws he will it off rend.

For his robe of state, a rich scarlet mantle,
With eleven kings' beards bordered about,
He hath made late, and yet in a cantle-
Is left a place the twelfth to make out,
Where thine must stand, be thou never so stout;
This must be done, I tell thee no fable,
Maugre the pow'r of all thy round table.

When this mortal message from his mouth was
past,
Great was the bruit in hall and in bow'r;
The king fumed, the queen shrieked, ladies were
aghast,
Princes puff'd, barons blustered, lords began to
lour,
Knights stamped, 'squires startled as steeds in a
stour,
Yeomen and pages yell'd out in the hall,
When herewith came in Sir Kay, Seneschal.

“Silence, my sufferaunce,” quoth the courteous knight,
And in that stound the charm became still;

The Dwarf's dinner full dearly was dight,
For wine and wassail he had at his will ;
And when he had eaten and fed his fill,
One hundred pieces of coined gold
Were given the Dwarf for his message bold.

" Say to Sir Ryence, thou Dwarf," quoth the king,
" That for this proud message I him defy,
And shortly with basons and pans will him ring
Out of North Wales ; whereas he and I
With swords, and no razors, shall utterly try
Which of us both is the better barber :"
And therewith he shook his sword *Excaliber* !

At this the Minstrel made a pause and a courtesy for *primus passus*. More of the song there is, but I got it not. As for the matter, had it come to the show, I think the fellow would have handled it well enough.

Her highness tarried at Kenilworth till the Wednesday after, being the 27th of this July, and the nineteenth inclusive of her majesty's coming thither ; for which seven days, perceiving my notes so slenderly answering, I took it less blame to cease, and thereof to write you

nothing at all, than in such matters to write nothing likely ; and so much the rather, (as I have well bethought me) that if I did but ruminate the days I have spoken of, I shall bring out yet somewhat more meet for your appetite, (though a dainty tooth have ye) which I believe your tender stomach will brook well enough.

Whereof part is, first, how according to her highness' name *Elizabeth*, which I hear say, out of the Hebrew, signifieth, among other, *the seventh of my God* ; divers things here did so justly in number square with the same. As first, her highness hither coming in this seventh month ; then presented with the seven presents of the seven gods ; and after, with the melody of the seven sorted music in the dolphin, the Lake-Lady's gift. Then, too, consider how fully the gods, as it seemed, had conspired most magnificently in abundance to bestow their influences and gifts upon her court, there to make her majesty merry.

Sage *Saturn* himself in person (that because of this lame leg could not so well stir) in chair, therefore to take order with the grave officers of

the household, holpen indeed with the good advice of his prudent niece *Pallas*, that no unruly body, or disquiet, disturb the noble assembly, or else be once so bold to enter within the Castle gates. Away with all rascals, captives, melancholic, wayward, froward conjurers and usurers, and to have labourers and under-workmen for the beautifying of any place, always at hand as they should be commanded.

Jupiter sent personages of high honour and dignity; barons, lords, ladies, judges, bishops, lawyers, and doctors; with them, virtue, nobleness, equity, liberality, and compassion; due season, and fair weather; saving that, at the petition of his dear sister *Ceres*, he granted a day or two of some sweet showers for ripening of her corn that was so well set, and to get forward harvest. Herewith bestowed he such plenty of pleasant thunder, lightning, and thunderbolts, by his halting son and fire-master *Vulcan*, still fresh and fresh framed, always so frequent, so intellable, and of such continuance in the spending (as I partly told ye) consumed, that surely he seems to be as of power inestima-

ble ; so, in store of munition, unwasteable ; for all *Ovid's* censure that says,

Si quoties peccant homines sua fulmina mittat
Jupiter, exiguo tempore inermis erit.

If Jove should shoot his thunderbolts, as oft as men offend,
Assure you his artillery would soon be at an end !

What a number of estates and of nobility had *Jupiter* assembled there, guess you by this, that of sort worshipful there were in the court daily above forty, whereof the meanest of a thousand marks yearly revenue, and many of much more. This great gift beside did his deity confer upon her highness—to have fair and seasonable weather at her own appointment ; according whereunto her majesty so had. For her gracious presence, therefore, with this great gift endowed, Lichfield, Worcester, and Middleton, with many places more, made humble suit unto her highness to come ; to such whereof as her majesty could, it came, and they season acceptable.

Phæbus, beside his continual and most delicious music, (as I have told you) appointed he princes to adorn her highness' court, counsellors, heralds, and sanguine youth, pleasant and merry, costly garments, learned physicians, and no need of them.

Juno, gold chains, ouches, jewels of great price and rich attire worn in much grace and good beseeming, without pride or emulation of any.

Mars, captains of good conduct, men skilful in feats of arms, politic in stratagems, of good courage in good quarrels, valiant and wise-hardy; abandoning pique-quarrels and ruffians: appointing also pursuivants, couriers, and posts, still feeding her highness with news and intelligences from all parts.

Venus, unto the ladies and gentlewomen, beauty, good favour, comeliness, gallant attire, dancing with comely grace, sweet voice in song and pleasant talk, with express commandment and charge unto her son, on her blessing, that he shoot not a shaft in the court all the while her highness remained at Kenilworth.

Mercury, learned men in sciences ; poets, merchants, painters, carvers, players, engineers, diversers, and dexterity in handling of all pleasant attempts.

Luna, calm nights for quiet rest, and silver moonshine, that nightly indeed shone for most of her majesty's being there.

Blind *Plutus*, bags of money, customers, exchangers, and bankers, with store of riches in plate and in coin.

Bacchus, full cups every where, every hour of all kinds of wine. There was no dainty that the sea could yield, but *Neptune* (though his reign at the nearest lay well nigh a hundred miles off) did daily send in great plenty, sweet and fresh. As for fresh water fish, the store of all sorts was abundant.

And how bountiful *Ceres* in provision was, guess ye by this, that in little more than three days space, seventy-two tuns of ale and beer were piped up quite ; what that might, whilst with it, of bread beside meat, I report me to you : and yet the master Comptroller, master Cofferer, and divers officers of the court, some honourable and

sundry right worshipful were placed at Warwick, for more room in the Castle. But here was no ho! *Master Martin*, in devout drinking alway; that brought lack unlooked for; which being known to the worshipful my lord's good neighbours, came there in two day's space, from sundry friends, a relief of forty tuns, till a new supply was got again: and then to our drinking afresh as fast as ever we did.

Flora, abroad and within the house, ministered of flowers so great a quantity, of such sweet savour, so beautifully hued, so large and fair proportion, and of such strange kinds and shapes, that it was great pleasure to see: and so much the more, as there was great store of others that were counterfeit, and formed of feathers by art; alike glorious to the show, as were the natural.

Proteus, his tumbler, that could by nimbleness cast himself into so many forms and fashions.

Pan, his merry morrice-dance, with their pipe and tabor.

Bellona, her quintain knights, and proper bickerings of the Coventry men.

Polyphemus, Neptune's son and heir: (let him I pray, an it be but for his father's sake and for his good will, be allowed for a god,) with his bears, his bear-whelps, and ban-dogs.

Æolus, holding up his winds, while her highness at any time took pleasure on the water, and staying of tempests during her abode here.

Sylvanus, besides his plentiful provision of fowl for dainty viands, his pleasant and sweet singing birds: whereof I will show you more anon.

Echo, her well endited dialogue.

Faunus, his jolly savage.

Genius loci, his tempering of all things within and without, with apt time and place to pleasure and delight.

Then the three *Charities*: [or graces] *Aglaia*, with her lightsome gladness; *Thalia*, her flourishing freshness; *Euphrosyne*, her cheerfulness of spirit: and with these three in one assent, *Concordia*, with her amity and good agreement. That to

how great effect their powers were poured out here among us, let it be judged by this, that by a multitude thus met of three or four thousand every day; and divers days more, of so sundry degrees, professions, ages, appetites, dispositions and affections; such a drift of time was there passed, with such amity, love, pastime, agreement, and obedience where it should; and without quarrel, jarring, grudging, or (that I could hear) of ill words between any. A thing, *Master Martin*, very rare and strange, and yet no more strange than true.

The *Parcæ*, [or Fates] as erst I should have said, the first night of her majesty's coming, they hearing and seeing so precious ado here at a place unlooked for, in an uplandish country so far within the realm: pressing into every stead where her highness went, whereby so duddled with such variety of delights, did set aside their housewifery, and could not for their hearts tend their work a whit. But after they had seen her majesty a-bed, got them a prying into every place: old hags! as fond of novelties as young girls that had never seen court before: but

neither full with gazing, nor weary with gadding : left off yet for that time, and at high midnight gat them giggling, (but not aloud) in the presence chamber : minding indeed, with their present diligence, to recompense their former slackness.

So, setting themselves thus down to their work, "Alas !" says *Atropos*, "I have lost my sheers :" *Lachesis* laughed apace and would not draw a thread : "And think ye, dames, that I'll hold the distaff, while both ye sit idle ? Why, no, by my mother's soul," quoth *Clotho*. Therewith, carefully lapped in fine lawn, the spindle and rock, that was dizened with pure purple silk, laid they safely up together ; that of her majesty's distaff, for eighteen days, there was not a thread spun, I assure you. The two sisters after that (I heard say) began their work again, that long may they continue : but *Atropos* heard no tiding of her sheers, and not a man that moaned her loss. She is not beloved surely ; for this can I tell you, that whether it be for hate to the hag, or love to her highness, or else for both, every man prays God she may never find them for that work ; and so pray I daily and duly with the devoutest.

Thus partly you perceive now, how greatly the gods can do for mortals, and how much always they love where they like: that what a gentle *Jove* was this, thus courteously to contrive here such a train of gods? Nay then rather, *Master Martin*, to come out of our poeticalities, and to talk on more serious terms, what a magnificent lord may we justly account him, that could so highly cast order for such a *Jupiter* and all his gods beside: that none with his influence, good property, or present, were wanting; but always ready at hand, in such order and abundance for the honouring and delight of so high a prince, our most gracious queen and sovereign. A prince (I say) so singular in pre-eminence, and worthiness above all other princes and dignities of our time: though I make no comparison to years past, to him that in this point, either of ignorance—(if any such can be,) or else of malevolence, would make any doubt: *sit liber Judex* (as they say;) let him look on the matter, and answer himself, he has not far to travel.

As for the amplitude of his lordship's mind, albeit that I, poor soul, can in conceit no more attain unto, than judge of a gem whereof I have no skill: yea, though daily worn and resplendent in mine eye; yet some of the virtues and properties thereof, in quantity, or quality, so apparent as cannot be hidden, but seen of all men, might I be the bolder to report here unto you; but as for the value, your jewellers by their carats let them cast, an they can.

And first, who that considers unto the stately seat of Kenilworth Castle, the rare beauty of building that his honour hath advanced, all of the hard quarry-stone; every room so spacious, so well belighted, and so high roofed within: so seemly to sight by due proportion without; In day-time on every side so glittering by glass; at nights, by continual brightness of candle, fire, and torch-light, transparent thro' the lightsome windows, as it were the Egyptian Pharos reluctant unto all the Alexandrian coast; or else, (to talk merrily with my merry friend,) thus radiant, as though *Phœbus* for his ease would rest him in the Castle, and not every night so to travel

down unto the Antipodes. Here, too, so fully furnished of rich apparel and utensils apted in all points to the best.

Unto this, his honour's exquisite appointment of a beautiful garden, an acre or more in quantity, that lieth on the north there : Wherein hard all along by the Castle wall, is reared a pleasant terrace, ten feet high, and twelve feet broad, even under foot, and fresh of fine grass ; as is also the side thereof towards the garden : In which, by sundry equal distances, with obelisks, and spheres, and white bears, all of stone upon their curious bases, by goodly show were set ; to these, two fine arbours redolent by sweet trees and flowers, at each end one, the garden plot under that, with fair alleys, green by grass, even voided from the borders on both sides, and some (for change) with sand, not light, or too soft, or soily by dust, but smooth and firm, pleasant to walk on, as a sea-shore when the water is availed. Then, much gracified by due proportion of four even quarters : in the midst of each, upon a base of two feet square, and high, seemly bordered of itself, a square pilaster rising pyramidi-

cally fifteen feet high. Symmetrically pierced through from a foot beneath to two feet of the top: whereupon, for a capital, an orb of ten inches thick; every one of these, from its base, from the ground to the top, of one whole piece; hewn out of hard porphyry, and with great art and heed (think me) thither conveyed and there erected. Where, further also, by great cast and cost, the sweetness of savour on all sides, made so respirant from the redolent plants and fragrant herbs and flowers, in form, colour, and quantity so deliciously variant; and fruit-trees bedecked with apples, pears, and ripe cherries.

And unto these, in the midst, against the terrace: a square cage, sumptuous and beautiful, joined hard to the north wall, (that on that side guards the garden, as the garden the Castle) of a rare form and excellency was raised: in height twenty feet, thirty long, and fourteen broad. From the ground strong and close, reared breast-high, whereat a framing of a fair moulding was couched all about: from that upward, four great windows in front, and two at each end, every

one five feet wide, as many more even above them, divided on all parts by a transom and architrave, so likewise ranging about the cage. Each window arched at the top, and parted from the other at even distances by flat fair bolted columns, all in form and beauty alike, these supported a comely cornice couched all along upon the bole square. Which with a wire net, finely knit, of meshes six square, an inch wide, (as it were for a flat roof) and likewise the space of every window with great cunning and comeliness, even and tight was all over-strained. Under the cornice again, every part beautified with great diamonds, emeralds, rubies, and saphires : pointed, tabled, rock and round, and garnish'd with gold ; by skilful head and hand, and by toil and pencil so lively expressed, as it might be great marvel and pleasure to consider how near excellency of art could approach unto perfection of nature.

Bear with me, good countryman, though things be not showed here as well as I would, or as well as they should. For indeed I can better imagine and conceive that which I see, than well utter, or duly declare it. Holes were there also

and caverns in orderly distances and fashion, voided into the wall; as well for heat, for coolness, for roost at nights and refuge in weather, as also for breeding when time is. More; fair, even, and fresh holly trees for perching and pruning, set within, toward each end one.

Here, too, their diversity of meats, their fine several vessels for their water and sundry grains; and a man skilful and diligent to look to them and tend them.

But, shall I tell you, of the silver sounded lute, without the sweet touch of hand; the glorious golden cup, without the fresh fragrant wine; or the rich ring with gem, without the fair featured finger; is nothing, indeed, in his proper grace and use: even so his honour accounted of this mansion 'till he had placed there tenants according. Had it, therefore, replenished with lively birds, English, French, Spanish, Canarian, and I am deceived if I saw not some African. Wherby, whether it became more delightsome in change of tunes, and harmony to the ear; or else in difference of colours, kinds, and properties to the eye, I'll tell you if I can, when I better bethought me.

One day, *Master Martin*, as the garden door was open, and her highness hunting, by licence of my good friend *Adrian*, I came in at a beckon, but would scant out with a thrust: for sure I was loath so soon to depart. Well may this, *Master Martin*, be somewhat to magnitude of mind, but more thereof as ye shall know, more cause ye shall have so to think: hear out what I tell you, and tell me when we meet.

In the centre, as it were, of this goodly garden, was there placed a very fair fountain, cast into an eight-square, reared four feet high; from the midst whereof, a column upright, in shape of two *Athlants*, joined together a back half; the one looking east, the other west, with their hands upholding a fair-formed bowl of three feet over; from whence sundry fine pipes did lively distil continual streams into the reservoir of the fountain, maintained still two feet deep by the same fresh falling water: wherein pleasantly playing to and fro, and round about, carp, tench, bream, and for variety, perch and eel fish, fair-liking all, and large: In the top, the ragged staff; which, with

the bowl, the pillar, and eight sides beneath, were all hewn out of rich and hard white marble. On one side, *Neptune* with his tridental fuskin triumphing in his throne, trailed into the deep by his marine horses. On another, *Thetis* in her chariot drawn by her dolphins. Then *Triton* by his fishes. Here *Proteus* herding his sea-bulls. There *Doris* and her daughters solacing on sea and sands. The waves surging with froth and foam, intermingled in place, with whales, whirlpools, sturgeons, tunneys, conches, and weaks, all engraven by exquisite device and skill, so as I may think this not much inferior unto *Phæbus'* gates, which *Ovid* says, and peradventure a pattern to this, that *Vulcan* himself did cut : whereof such was the excellency of art, that the work in value surmounted the stuff, and yet were the gates all of clean massy silver.

Here were things, ye see, might inflame any mind to long after looking : but whoso was found so hot in desire, with the wrest of a cock was sure of a cooler : water spirting upward with such vehemency, as they should, by and by, be moistened from top to toe ; the he's to some

laughing, but the she's to more sport ; this sometime was occupied to very good pastime.

A garden then so appointed, as wherein aloft upon sweet shadowed walk of terrace, in heat of summer, to feel the pleasant whisking wind above, or delectable coolness of the fountain-spring beneath ; to taste of delicious strawberries, cherries, and other fruits, even from their stalks ; to smell such fragrancy of sweet odours, breathing from the plants, herbs, and flowers ; to hear such natural melodious music and tunes of birds ; to have in eye for mirth sometime these underspringing streams ; then, the woods, the waters (for both pool and chase were hard at hand in sight) the deer, the people (that out of the east arbour in the base court, also at hand in view) the fruit-trees, the plants, the herbs, the flowers, the change in colours, the birds flittering, the fountain streaming, the fish swimming, all in such delectable variety, order, and dignity ; whereby, at one moment, in one place, at hand, without travel, to have so full fruition of so many of God's blessings, by entire delight unto all senses (if all can take) at once :

for etymon of the word worthy to be called Paradise: and though not so goodly as Paradise, for want of the fair rivers, yet better a great deal by the lack of so unhappy a tree. Argument most certain of a right noble mind, that in this sort could have thus all contrived.

But, *Master Martin*, yet one windlass must I fetch, to make you one more fair course, an I can: and cause I speak of one, let me tell you a little of the dignity of one-hood; wherein always all high deity, all sovereignty, pre-eminence, principality, and concord, without possibility of disagreeament, is contained: As, one God, one Saviour, one Faith, one Prince, one Sun, one Phœnix; and as one of great wisdom saith, one heart, one way. Where one-hood reigns, there quiet bears rule, and discord flies apace. Three again may signify company, a meeting, a multitude, plurality: so as all tales and numberings from two unto three, and so upward, may well be counted numbers, 'till they mount unto infinity, or else to confusion, which thing the sum of two can never admit; nor it-self can well be counted a number, but rather a

friendly conjunction of two ones ; that, keeping in a sincerity of accord, may purport unto us charity to each other ; mutual love, agreement and integrity of friendship without dissimulation. As is in these : the two Testaments ; the two Tables of the Law ; the two great Lights, *Duo lumenaria magna*, the sun and moon. And, but mark a little, I pray, and see how of all things in the world, our tongues in talk do always so readily trip upon two's pairs, and couples ; sometimes as of things in equality, sometime of difference, sometime of contraries, or for comparison, but chiefly, for the most part, of things that between themselves do well agree, and are fast linked in amity : As, first, for pastimes, hounds and hawks ; deer red and fallow ; hare and fox ; partridge and pheasant ; fish and fowl ; carp and tench. For wars, spear and shield ; horse and harness ; sword and buckler. For sustenance, wheat and barley ; pease and beans ; meat and drink ; bread and meat ; beer and ale ; apples and pears.

But lest by such qualities I draw you too far ; let us here stay, and come nearer home.

See what a sort of friendly binites we ourselves do consist and stand upon : First, our two feet, two legs, two knees, so upward ; and above, two shoulders, two arms, and two hands. But chiefly our principal two ; that is, body and soul : Then in the head, where all our senses meet, and almost all in two's ; two nostrils, two ears, and two eyes : So are we of friendly two's from top to toe. Well, to this number of binites, take ye one more for an upshot, and here an end.

Two dials nigh unto the battlements, are set aloft upon two of the sides of Cæsar's Tower ; one east, the other south ; for so stand they best to show the hours to the town and country : both fair, large, and rich, blue bice for ground, and gold for letters, whereby they glitter conspicuous a great way off. The clock-bell, that is good and shrill, was commanded to silence at first, and indeed, sung not a note all the while her highness was there ; the clock stood also still withal. But mark now, whether were it by chance, by constellation of stars, or by fatal appointment (if fates and stars do deal with

dials) thus was it indeed. The hands of both the tables stood firm and fast, always pointing at two o'clock. Which thing beholding by hap at first, but after seriously marking in deed, enprinted into me a deep sign and argument certain: that this thing, among the rest, was for full significance of his lordship's honourable, frank, friendly, and noble heart towards all estates; which, whether they come to stay and take cheer, or strait to return; to see, or to be seen; come they for duty to her majesty, or love to his lordship, or for both: come they early or late: for his lordship's part, they come always all at two o'clock, e'en jump at two o'clock: that is to say, in good heart, good acceptance, in amity, and friendly welcome: who saw else that I saw; in right must say as I say. For so many things beside, *Master Humphrey*, were herein so consonant unto my construction, that this pointing of the clock (to myself) I took in amity, as an oracle certain. And here is my windlass like your course, as please you.

But now, Sir, to come to an end. For receiving of her highness, and entertainment of

all the other estates. Since of delicates, that any way might serve or delight ; as of wine, spice, dainty viands, plate, music, ornaments of house, rich arras and silk (to say nothing of the meanerthings,) the mass by provision was heaped so huge, which the bounty in spending did after bewray. The conceit so deep in casting the plat at first : such a wisdom and cunning in acquiring things so rich, so rare, and in such abundance : by so immense and profuse a charge of expence, which, by so honourable service, and exquisite order, courtesy of officers, and humanity of all, were after so bountifully bestowed and spent ; what may this express, what may this set out unto us, but only a magnific mind, a singular wisdom, a princely purse, and an heroical heart ? If it were my theme, *Master Martin*, to speak of his lordship's great honour and magnificence, though it be not in me to say sufficiently, as bad a pen-clerk as I am, yet could I spy a great deal more.

But being here now in magnificence, and matters of greatness, it falls well to mind the greatness of his honour's tent, that for her majesty's

dining was pight at Long Ichington, the day her highness came to Kenilworth Castle. A tabernacle indeed for number and shift of large and goodly rooms, for fair and easy offices both inward and outward, all so likesome in order and eye-sight : that justly for dignity may be comparable with a beautiful palace ; and for greatness and quantity, with a proper town, or rather a citadel. But to be short, lest I keep you too long from the Royal Exchange now, and to cause you conceive much matter in fewest words. The iron bedstead of Og, the king of Basan (you know) was four yards and a half long, and two yards wide, whereby ye consider a giant of a great proportion was he : This tent had seven cart-load of pins pertaining to it : Now for the greatness, guess as you can.

And great as it was (to marshal our matters of greatness together) not forgetting a wether at Grafton, brought to the court, that for body and wool was exceeding great ; the measure I took not : let me show you with what great marvel a great child of Leicestershire, at this Long Ichington, by the parents was presented : great,

I say, of limbs and proportion, of four feet and four inches high, and else lanuginous as a lad of eighteen years: being indeed avowed to be but six years old, nothing more bewraying his age than his wit, that was, as for those years, simple and childish.

As for unto his lordship, having with such greatness of honourable modesty and benignity so passed forth, as *laudem sine invidia et amicos parit*. By greatness of well-doing, won with all sorts to be in such reverence as *de quo mentiri fama veretur*. In sincerity of friendship so great, as no man more devoutly worships *illud amicitiae sanctum et venerabile nomen*. So great in liberality, as hath no way to heap up the mass of his treasure, but only by liberal giving and bounteous bestowing his treasure; following (as it seems) that saw of *martial*, that saith,

Extra fortunam est, quicquid donatur amicis;
Quas dederis, solas semper habebis opes.

Out of all hazard dost thou set that to thy friends thou givest:

A surer treasure canst thou not have ever while thou livest.

What may these greatnesses bode, but only as great honour, fame, and renown for these parts here away, as ever was unto these two noble greats, the *Macedonian Alexander*, in Emathia or Greece, or to *Roman Charles* in Germany or Italy? Which, were it in me any way to set out, no man of all men by God, *Master Martin*, had ever more cause, and that hereby consider you.

It pleased his honour to bear me good will at first, and so to continue. To have given me apparel even from his back, to get me allowance in the stable, to advance me unto this worshipful office so near the most honourable council, to help me in my licence of beans (though indeed I do not so much use it, for, I thank God, I need not) to permit my good father to serve the stable. Whereby I go now in my silks, that else might ruffle in my cut canvass: I ride now on horseback, that else many times might man-ege it on foot: am known to their honours, and taken forth with the best, that else might be bidden to stand back myself. My good father a good relief, that he fares much the better by, and none of these for my desert, either at first or

since, God knows. What say you, my good friend Humphrey, should I not for ever honour and extol him all the ways I can? Yes, by your leave, while God lends me power to utter my mind. And, having as good cause of his honour, as *Virgil* had of *Augustus Cæsar*, will I poet it a little with *Virgil*, and say,

Namque erit Ille mihi semper Deus, illius aram
Sæpe tener nostris ab ovilibus imbuet agnus.

For he shall be a God to me, 'till death my life consumes,
His altars will I sacrifice with incense and perfumes.

A singular patron of humanity may he be well unto us toward all degrees: of honour toward high estates, and chiefly whereby we may learn in what dignity, worship, and reverence her highness is to be esteemed, honoured, and received, that was never indeed more condignly done than here; so as neither by the builders at first, nor by the edict of pacification after, was ever Kenilworth more ennobled, than by this his lordship's receiving her highness here now.

But, Jesu, Jesu, whither am I drawn now? But talk I of my lord once, even thus it fares with me: I forget all my friends, and myself too. And yet you, being a mercer, a merchant, as I am, my countryman born, and my good friend withal, whereby I know you are compassioned with me; methought it my part somewhat to impart unto you how it is here with me, and how I lead my life, which indeed is this:

A mornings I rise ordinarily at seven o'clock: then ready, I go into the chapel; soon after eight, I get me commonly into my lord's chamber, or into my lord's presidents. There at the cupboard, after I have eaten the manchet served over night for livery, (for I dare be as bold, I promise you, as any of my friends the servants there; and indeed I could have fresh, if I would tarry; but I am of wont jolly and dry a mornings): I drink me up a good bowl of ale: when in a sweet pot it is defecated by all night's standing, the drink is the better, take that of me: and a morsel in a morning, with a sound draught, is very wholesome and good for the eyesight: Then I am as fresh all the forenoon

after, as had I eaten a whole piece of beef. Now, sir, if the council sit, I am at hand ; wait at an inch, I warrant you : If any make babbling, "Peace," say I, "wot ye where ye are?" If I take a listener, or a pryer in at the chinks or at the lock-hole, I am by and by in the bones of him : but now they keep good order, they know me well enough : If he be a friend, or such a one as I like, I make him sit down by me on a form or a chest ; let the rest walk, in God's name.

And here doth my languages now and then stand me in good stead, my French, my Spanish, my Dutch, and my Latin : sometime among ambassadors' men, if their masters be within the council : sometime with the ambassador himself, if he bid call his lacquey, or ask me what's o'clock ; and I warrant you I answer him roundly, that they marvel to see such a fellow there : then laugh I, and say nothing. Dinner and supper I have twenty places to go to, and heartily prayed to : Sometimes I get to *Master Pinner* ; by my faith a worshipful gentleman, and as careful for his charge as any her highness hath. There find I always good store of

very good viands; we eat, and be merry, thank God and the queen. Himself in feeding very temperate and moderate as you shall see any; and yet, by your leave, of a dish, as a cold pigeon or so, that hath come to him at meat more than he looked for, I have seen him even so by and by surfeit, as he hath plucked off his napkin, wiped his knife, and eat not a morsel more; like enough to stick in his stomach two days after: (some hard message from the higher officers; perceive ye me? Upon search, his faithful dealing and diligence had found him faultless.

In afternoons and at nights, sometime am I with the right worshipful *Sir George Howard*, as good a gentleman as any that lives. And sometime, at my good *Lady Sidney's* chamber, a noble-woman that I am as much bound unto, as any poor man may be unto so gracious a lady; and sometime in some other place. But always among the gentlewomen by my good will; (O, you know that comes always of a gentle spirit :) And when I see company according, then can I be as lively too: Sometimes I foot it

with dancing: now with my gittern, or else with my cittern, then at the virginals: You know nothing comes amiss to me: Then carol I up a song withal; that by and by they come flocking about me like bees to honey; And ever they cry, "Another, good *Laneham*, another!" Shall I tell you? when I see *Mistress*—
(Ah! see a mad knave; I had almost told all!)—that she gives once but an eye, or an ear; why then, man, am I blest; my grace, my courage, my cunning is doubled; She says, sometime, "She likes it;" and then I like it much the better; it doth me good to hear how well I can do. And to say truth; what with mine eye, as I can amorously gloit it, with my Spanish sospires, my French heighes, mine Italian dulcets, my Dutch hoves, my double releas, my high reaches, my fine feigning, my deep diapason my wanton warbles, my running, my timing, my tuning, and my twinkling, I can gracify the matters as well as the proudest of them, and was yet never stained, I thank God: By my troth, countryman, it is sometimes high midnight, ere I can get from them. And thus have I

told you most of my trade, all the live long day : what will you more, God save the queen and my lord. I am well I thank you.

Herewith meaneid I fully to bid ye farewell, had not this doubt come to my mind, that here remains a doubt in you, which I ought (me-thought) in any wise to clear. Which is, ye marvel perchance to see me so bookish. Let me tell you in few words : I went to school, forsooth, both at Paul's and also at St. Anthony's : In the fifth form, passed Æsop's Fables, I wis, read Terence *vos istæc. intro auferte*, and began with my Virgil *Tityre tu patulæ*. I conned my rules, could construe and parse with the best of them : since that, as partly you know, have I trad-ed the feat of merchandize in sundry countries, and so got me languages ; which do so little hinder my Latin, as I, thank God, have much en-creased it. I have leisure sometimes, when I tend not upon the council ; whereby, now look I on one book, now on another. Stories I de-light in : the more ancient and rare, the more likesome to me. If I told you, I liked William of Malmesbury so well, because of his diligence

and antiquity, perchance you would construe it because I love malmsey so well: But i' faith it is not so: for sipt I no more sack and sugar, (and yet never but with company) than I do malmsey, I should not blush so much adays as I do: you know my mind.

Well now, thus fare ye heartily well i' faith: If with wishing it could have been, ye had had a buck or two this summer; but we shall come nearer shortly, and then shall we merrily meet, an grace of God. In the mean time commend me I beseech you, unto my good friends, almost most of them your neighbours: *Master Alderman Pullison*,* a special friend of mine: And in any wise to my good old friend *Master Smith*, customer, by that same token, — “ Set my horse up to the rack, and then let's have a cup of sack.” He knows the token well enough, and will laugh, I hold you a groat. To Master Thorogood: and to my merry companion (a

* Afterwards sir Thomas Pullison, and lord Mayor in 1584.

Mercer, you know, as we be) *Master Denman, Mio fratello in Christo*: He is wont to summon me by the name of “*Ro. La.* of the county of Nosingham Gentleman:” A good companion, i’ faith. Well, once again fare ye heartily well. From the court. At the city of Worcester, the twentieth of August, 1575.

Your countryman, companion, and friend assuredly: Mercer, Merchant-adventurer, and clerk of the council chamber-door, and also keeper of the same:

El Prencipe Negro. Par me R. L. Gent. Mercer

DE MAJESTATE REGIA

Benigno.

Cedant arma togæ, concedat laurea linguae,
 Jactanter Cicero, at justius illud habe:
 Cedant arma togæ, vigil et toga cedit honori,
 Omnia concedant imperioque suo.

Deo Opt. Max. Gratia.

GLOSSARIAL

AND

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

Page 4.—*A flight-shoot broad.*

This passage may have two significations: One derived from the same expression which Laneham uses when speaking of the fire-works, in which place it is understood to mean a flying shot, or one discharged from a mortar.—The other method of understanding the words is, supposing that a flight signified a small arrow; in contradistinction to shafts, quarrels, bolts, and piles. The latter of these is, however, the most probable, as the pool itself was not more than three hundred feet in breadth.

Ibid.—by the brays, &c.

The Park at Kenilworth was separated from the Castle on the south side by a part of the pool, but was, as the text states, connected as it were with the building by the sloping banks next the water. The word Bra, Brae, or Bray, in the northern counties and Scotland is used for the acclivity of a hill, and the brink or bank of a river.—*Vide* Grose and Jamieson.

Page 6.—*Penda's presumption.*

In the year 642, Penda, King of Mercia, invaded the dominions of Oswald, King of Northumberland; who was slain after a fierce battle at Maserfield. Burthred or Buthred, who is mentioned in the context, was the last King of Mercia; whose kingdom was invaded in 874, by the West-Saxons, under Alfred. Thus overpowered, he fled to Rome, where he died.

Page 6.—*Buthred's Hascardy.*

The latter of these words, signifies a dispersion or scattering, the cause of which, has been related in the preceding note. *Hascardy* is derived from the Saxon *As-cadian*, which is of the same interpretation.—*Vide Somner.*

Page 7.—*Althamerus writes.*

Andrew Althamer, a Lutheran minister of Nuremberg, who lived about 1560; he wrote several controversial works, and some valuable notes on Tacitus, from which the passage in the text is taken.—*Vide Dictionnaire Universel.*

The termination *Worth*, which is mentioned in the text to signify land situate by water, is more properly derived from the Saxon *Pond*, a court or farm; and hence the place was originally denominated *Kenelm's Worth*, or the *Court of Kenelm*.

Ibid.—*Sybred.*

A word signifying kindred, from the Saxon *Sib-peden*—*Consanguinity*.—*Vide Lye.*

Page 8.—*Long Ichington.*

Another copy erroneously states this town to be only three miles distant from Kenilworth. In Dr. Thomas's edition of Dugdale's Warwickshire, Lond. 1730, Vol. 1. p. 345, it is related that at the period mentioned in the text, "the Earl of Leicester gave the queen a glorious entertainment here, in her passage to Kenilworth Castle, erecting a tent of extraordinary largeness for that purpose, the pins belonging whereto amounted to seven cart-loads; by which the magnificence thereof may be guessed at." Laneham also subsequently notices this circumstance, when speaking of the preparations for the queen's reception at Kenilworth. *Vide p. 83, ante.*

Ibid.—*in a pall of white silk.*

A long and large upper mantle was denominated a *pall*, from the Latin *pallium*, or *palla*, a cloak. The great mantle worn by the Knights of the Garter, is by ancient writers called *pallium*.

Ibid.—*into every stead.*

That is to say, every where, or into every place ; the word *stead* is from the Saxon *Stede*, a room or place.—*Vide Somner.*

Page 10—*The Lady of the Lake.*

The Lady of the Lake was a distinguished character in the celebrated romance called “*La Morte d’Arthur*,” and in the xxvth chapter of the 1st book of that Work she is thus introduced. “*Soo they rode tyl they came to a lake the whiche was a fayr water, and brood. And in the myddes of the lake, Arthur was ware of an arme clothed in white samyte, [i. e. satin] that held a fayr swerd in that hand, loo said Merlin, yonder is that swerd that I spak of, with that they sawe a damoisel going upon the lake, what damoisel is that? said Arthur; that is the lady of the lake, said Merlin.*” From this lady it was that King Arthur received his sword Excalibor, which some have explained to signify cut steel, and others have supposed to be a Hebrew term, meaning more precious than iron or steel. At the conclusion of the romance this famous sword is again cast into the lake, when the same hand receives it; the dying Arthur is also taken into a barge wherein were many “*fayr ladyes, and amonge hem al was a quene, and al they had blacke hoodes, and al they wepte and shryked when they sawe Kyng Arthur.*” Such was that Sovereign’s departure from this world, but yet he is not supposed to be dead but only sleeping on the magic lap of the Lady of the Lake, “*by the wylle of our Lord Jhesu in another place, and men say that he shal come ageyn and he shal wynne the holy crosse.*”—*Vide “La Morte d’Arthur,” Caxton’s Edit. 1485.*

Page 11.—*Shalms, Cornets, &c.*

The word *shalm* or *shawn* is derived from the German *SEHALME*, a musical instrument ; it however strictly signifies a psaltery or species of harp. The *cornet* is a horn, as its name signifies in several languages.—*Vide Bailey, Buy, &c.*

Page 14.—*Pight.*

This word is the ancient preterite and participle past of the verb *to pitch*. It signifies, generally, any thing placed, fixed, pitched, or determined. *Vide* Bailey.

Ibid.—*Recorders.*

These were wind-instruments somewhat resembling flutes, or rather clarionets; for by the description which is given of one by Lord Bacon, in the Second Century of his “*Sylva Sylvarum*,” at the 159th and 161st experiments, it may be ascertained that the instrument was blown into at one end. It appears from the same authority, that it consisted of a tube with stops or wind-holes, and a fipple, or mouth-piece; the lower end was open like the flageolets of the present time. The word fipple, used by Bacon for mouth-piece, literally signifies a stopper, from the Latin *fibuli*, whence it may be argued that the upper end of the Recorder terminated in a cap, from which issued the pipe that conveyed the breath throughout the whole instrument. *Vide* Mallet’s Bacon, vol. 1, and Bailey.

Page 15.—*Ceruleous.*

Azure-blue, or sky-colour, from the Latin *ceruleus*. Anciently, blue dresses were worn by all servants. *Vide* Strutt.

Page 18.—*Takes soil.*

A term used in hunting, when a deer runs into the water. *Vide* Phillips.

Ibid.—*To the spoil of a Karvell.*

A Carvel, or Caravel, was a species of light round vessel, with a square stern, rigged and fitted out like a galley, and of about 140 tons burthen. Such ships were formerly much used by the Portuguese, and were esteemed the best sailors on the seas. *Vide* Phillips.

Ibid.—*The yearning of the Hounds.*

A hunting expression, used to signify the barking of beagles at their prey. *Vide* Bailey.

Page 23.—*A great sort of Ban-dogs.*

Bewick describes the Ban-dog as being a variety of the mastiff, but lighter, smaller, and more vigilant; although at the same time not so powerful. The nose is also less, and possesses somewhat of the hound's scent; the hair is rough, and of a yellowish grey colour, marked with shades of black. The bite of a Ban-dog is keen, and considered dangerous; and its attack is usually made upon the flank. Dogs of this kind are now rarely to be met with.

Page 25.—*The Bear with his pink eyes.*

There is a singular coincidence between Laneham's description of a bear-fight, and that given in the Romance of "Kenilworth," where the Earl of Sussex presents a petition from Orson Pinnit, Keeper of the Royal Bears, against Shaksp eare and the players. It is evident that the author of "Kenilworth" had the passage in his mind and as the reader may also like to compare the two passages, an extract from the romance is here inserted: "There you may see the bear lying at guard with his red pinky eyes, watching the onset of the mastiff like a wily captain, who maintains his defence, that an assailant may be tempted to venture within his danger." *Vide Kenilworth, vol. ii. p. 129.*

Page 26.—*Gyringe.*

An old English noun formed of the Latin *gyrus*, a circuit or compass; a career or circle.

Page 27.—*Diodorus Siculus, an ancient Greek writer.*

The reference made in the text to the third book of this author is erroneous; the passage alluded to, being in the fourth chapter of the second book, the which, as it tends more perfectly to illustrate Laneham's remarks, is here extracted from Booth's translation of Diodorus Siculus, page 82. "The inhabitants are much unlike to us in these parts of the world, both as to their bodies and their way of living; but among themselves, they are for form and shape like one to another, and in stature

above four cubits high (six feet.) They can bend and turn their bodies like unto nerves; and as the nervous parts, after motion ended, return to their former state and position, so do their bones. Their bodies are very tender; but their nerves far stronger than ours, for whatever they grasp in their hands, none are able to wrest out of their fingers. They have not the least hair on any part of their bodies, but upon their heads, eyebrows, eyelids, and chins; all other parts are so smooth, that not the least down appears any where. They are very comely and well-shaped, but the holes of their ears are much wider than ours, and have something like little tongues growing out of them. Their tongues have something in them singular and remarkable, the effect both of nature and art; for they have partly a double tongue, naturally a little divided, but cut farther inwards by art, so that it forms two, as far as to the very root, and therefore there's great variety of speech among them, and they not only imitate man's voice in articulate speaking, but the various chatterings of birds, and even all sorts of notes, as they please; and that which is more wonderful than all, is, that they can speak perfectly to two men at once, both in answering to what is said, and aptly carrying on a continued discourse relating to subject-matter in hand; so that with one part of their tongue they speak to one, and with the other part to the other." Diodorus, surnamed Siculus, because he was born at Argyra in Sicily, flourished about 44 years before the Christian era.

Page 27.—*Conradus Gesnerus.*

An eminent physician, naturalist, and scholar of the 16th century, who was born at Zurich 1516. He was made Professor of Greek at Lausanne, and at Basil he took the degree of Doctor of Medicine. After having published many valuable works in Botany, Medicine, Natural History, and Philology, he died of the plague in the year 1565, aged forty-nine. His "Mithridates," mentioned in the text, is a work on the difference of tongues throughout the world.

Page 28.—*A comely Quintain.*

In the Glossary to Bishop Kennet's *Parochial Antiquities*, it is stated that the Quintain was a customary sport at weddings. It consisted of an upright piece with a cross piece, one end of which is broad, and pierced full of holes, and to the other is appended a bag of sand, which swings round upon the slightest blow.—“The pastime was,” says Hasted, “for the youth on horseback to run at it as fast as possible, and hit the broad part in his career with much force. He that by chance hits it not at all was treated with loud peals of derision; and he who did it, made the best use of his swiftness, lest he should have a sound blow on his neck from the bag of sand, which instantly swang round from the other end of the quintain. The great design of this sport was to try the agility of the horse and man, and to break the board, which whoever did, he was accounted chief of the day's sport.”

Ibid.—*Blue buckram bride-lace.*

Laces of this description were anciently presented to all the guests at weddings, and scarfs at funerals.—*Vide* Ellis's edit. of Brand.

Page 29.—*Girths were Geazon.*

Or *Geazon*, an ancient word, signifying rare or scarce.—*Vide* Phillips.

Page 30.—*Pucelles.*

A French word for maids or virgins.

Ibid.—*Loober Worts.*

A dull, heavy, and useless fellow. The word is probably derived from the Danish *lubben*, gross or fat, and *worte*, a wart or wen.—*Vide* Wolff.—Shaksepeare uses the latter word somewhat in this sense, when he makes Prince Henry say of Falstaff, “I do allow this wen to be as familiar with me as my dog.”

Ibid.—*A sweet Sucket Barrel.*

A vessel used for containing sweatmeats, for which *sucket* is the ancient word.

Page 30.—*Parcell.*

Partially, or partly.

Page 33.—*His Jument.*

A French word for a mare.

Page 34.—*Certain good-hearted men of Coventry.*

Previous to the suppression of the English Monasteries, the City of Coventry was particularly famed for the Pageants which were performed in it on the 14th of June, or Corpus Christi-day. This appears to have been one of the ancient fairs ; and the Gray Friars, or Friars Minors of the above City, had, as Dugdale relates, “Theatres for the several scenes very large and high, placed upon wheels, and drawn to all the eminent parts of the City, for the better advantage of the spectators : and contained the story of the Old and New Testament, composed in the old English rhyme.” Coventry appears to have derived great benefit from the numbers of persons who came to visit these pageants.

Page 36.—*Two sour in preaching away their pastime.*

While the Catholic religion was the established faith of England, there were, in connexion with it, many public amusements and festivals, by which all the orders of society were entertained ; such as the performance of Moralities or sacred plays, popular customs to be observed on certain vigils and saints' days, and the keeping of the many holidays enjoined by the Romish Calendar, in the many pastimes common to the lower classes. In the commencement of most reformations in society, it is common to find the reverse of wrong assumed for right ; and hence the Puritans, who increased rapidly after the English Reformation, not only banished all those festivals and customs peculiar to the Catholic religion, but also violently declaimed against popular pastimes, innocent in themselves, but condemned by them because they had existed in former times. This illiberal spirit of denouncing public amusements, was, however, not without some opposition ; Randolph severely attacked “the sanctified fraternity of Blackfriars,” in his “Muses

Looking Glass," and Ben Jonson scarcely ever let them pass without some satirical remark. In the Monologue, or "Masque of Owls," the latter of which, as it was performed at Kenilworth, in the reign of Charles I. is most to the present purpose ; the third owl is intended to represent a Puritan of Coventry, one of those who contributed to put down the Coventry plays, and is thus described :

HEY OWL THIRD !

"A pure native bird
 This, and though his hue
 Be Coventry blue,
 Yet he is undone
 By the thread he has spun ;
 For since the wise town
 Has let the sports down
 Of May-games and Morris,
 For which he right sorry is ;
 Where their maids and their makes, *
 At dancings and wakes,
 Had their napkins and posies,
 And the wipers for their noses,
 And their smocks all-be-wrought
 With his thread which they bought :
 It now lies on his hands,
 And having neither wit nor lands,
 Is ready to hang or choke him,
 In a skein of that that broke him."

From the above keen satire may be gathered, that in abolishing of the Coventry pageants, the trade of that City suffered considerably. The chief staple of the place was the manufactory of blue thread, of which a great consumption was formerly made in the embroidering of scarfs and napkins. But beside the decay of trade in Coventry, occasioned by the loss of the Pageants, the unpatriotic taste for articles of foreign production, was also of considerable detriment to that, as well as to the other manufacturing towns of England. In a very rare tract, entitled "A briefe Conceipte of English Pollicye,"

* Mates.

Lond. 1581, with the initials W. S. and ascribed to Shakspere, but in reality written by W. Stafford, there are the following passages concerning the effect of this destructive fashion upon the staple of Coventry; and as they tend so particularly to illustrate the period of the Kenilworth pageants, and Laneham's own manners, which were so strongly tinctured with foreign fopperies; it is presumed that their insertion will not be unacceptable to the reader:—"I will tell you; while men were contented with such as were made in the market-towns next unto them, then they of our towns and cities were wel-set at work, as I knew the time when men were contented with caps, hats, girdles, and points, and all manner of garments made in the towns next adjoining, whereby the towns were then well occupied and set at work, and yet the money paid for the stuff remained in the country. Now, the poorest young man in a country cannot be content with a leather girdle, or leather points, knives or daggers, made nigh home. And specially no gentleman can be content to have either cap, coat, doublet, hose, or shirt in his country, but they must have this gear come from London, and yet many things hereof are not there made, but beyond the sea: whereby the artificers of our good towns are idle, and the occupations in London, and specially of the towns beyond the seas, are set well at work even upon our costs.—I have heard say that the chief trade of Coventry was heretofore in making of blue thread, and then the town was rich even upon that trade in manner only, and now our thread comes all from beyond sea. Wherefore that trade of Coventry is decayed, and thereby the town likewise."—In consequence, therefore, of the desire for foreign articles of dress and ornament, England, which had been hitherto in a great measure supplied from her own resources, became about the close of the sixteenth century filled with manufactures which were imported from the continent; while at the same time the most important British productions were exchanged for what, in a commercial sense, might be considered only as superfluities. This, also, is very forcibly hinted at in the pamphlet before quoted, in the following manner:—"And I marvel

no man takes heed to it, what number first of trifles comes hither from beyond the sea, that we might either clean spare, or else make them within our realm, for the which we either pay inestimable treasure every year, or else exchange substantial wares and necessary, for them, for the which we might receive great treasure. Of the which sort I mean as well looking glasses as drinking, and also to glaze windows, dials, tables, cards, balls, puppets, penners (pen-cases,) ink-horns, toothpicks, gloves, knives, daggers, ouches (collars or necklaces,) brooches, aglets (the metal ends of tags or laces,) buttons of silk and silver, earthen pots, pins and points, hawks' bells, paper both white and brown, and a thousand like things that might either be clean spared, or else made within the realm sufficient for us: and as for some things they make it of our own commodities, and send it us again, whereby they set their people to work, and do exhaust much treasure out of this realm: as of our wool they make cloths, caps, and kerseys; of our fells (hides) they make Spanish skins, gloves, and girdles; of our tin salt-sellers, spoons and dishes; of our broken linen cloths and rags, paper both white and brown: what treasure think ye goes out of the realm for every of these things; and then for altogether it exceeds mine estimation. There is no man can be contented now with any other gloves than is made in France or in Spain; nor kersey, but it must be of Flanders dye; nor cloth, but French or Friseadowe; nor ouch, brooch, or agglet, but of Venice making, or Milan; nor dagger, sword, knife, or girdle, but of Spanish making, or some outward country; no not as much as a spur, but that is fetched at the milliner. I have heard within these forty years, when there was not of these haberdashers that sells French or Milan caps, glasses, knives, daggers, swords, girdles, and such things, not a dozen in all London: and now, from the town to Westminster along, every street is full of them, and their shops glitter and shine of glasses as well drinking as looking, yea all manner of vessel of the same stuff: painted cruises, gay daggers, knives, swords, and girdles, that it is able to make any temperate man to gaze on them, and to buy somewhat though it serve to no purpose necessary."

Page 36.—*Captain Cox.*

There is something extremely characteristic in Laneham's manner of introducing this humourous personage ; as he does it in the ordinary style of his office, it being customary for heralds, gentlemen ushers, and waiters of the presence-chamber, to call out for room to be made for the passage of any prince, ambassador, or minister of state, attending the court. In Gifford's admirable edition of Ben Johnson's Works, in the notes to the "Masque of Owls," Captain Cox is supposed "to have been some well known humourist;" but at any rate, as the judicious editor very properly observes, though Laneham, in his description of Cox, "evidently meant to raise a laugh" at the captain's expense, there is no occasion for it. "The list of his books and songs" shows him to have been a diligent and successful collector of the domestic literature of his country, and so far he is entitled to praise." By some antiquaries, the existence of Captain Cox has been considered as doubtful, and by others it has been supposed that Laneham shadowed out his own portrait under that name ; yet with respect to his library, every bibliographer, from Bodley and Selden down to those of the present times, has been as anxious to possess it as sir Launcelot du Lake was to win the holy vessel. In 1626, a year after Charles I. became king, the Kenilworth pageants were again revived ; and for this occasion was written the Monologue, or *Masque of Owls*, which commenced with the ghost of Captain Cox appearing on his hobby-horse. This, according to the custom of the morris-dancers, was formed with the resemblance of a horse's head and tail, having a light wooden frame to be attached to the body of the person who performed the hobby-horse. The trappings and foot-cloth reached to the ground, and so concealed the feet of the actor, who was to prance, curvet, and imitate all the motions of a living horse. Such, it may be supposed, were the horses of those who performed in the Coventry play. Almost the whole of the first part of Captain Cox's speech alludes to the entertainments exhibited to queen Elizabeth, as may be seen by the following extract : speaking of his horse, he says,

"For to tell you true, and in rhyme,
 He was foaled in queen Elizabeth's time,
 When the great Earl of Lester
 In this Castle did feast her.
 Now, I am not so stupid
 To think, you think me a Cupid,
 Or a Mercury, that sit him ;
 Though these cocks here would fit him :
 But a spirit very civil,
 Neither poets god, nor devil,
 An old Kenilworth fox,
 The ghost of Captain Cox,
 For which I am the bolder
 To wear a cock on each shoulder.
 This Captain Cox, by St. Mary,
 Was at Boulogne with king Ha-ry ;
 And (if some do not vary)
 Had a goodly library,
 By which he was discerned
 To be one of the learned,
 To entertain the queen here,
 When she last was seen here :
 And for the town of Coventry
 To act to her sovereignty.
 But so his lot fell out,
 That serving then a-foot,
 And being a little man ;
 When the skirmish began
 'Twixt the Saxon and the Dene,
 (From thence the story was ta'en)
 He was not so well seen
 As he would have been o' the queen.
 Though his sword was twice as long
 As any man's else in the throng ;
 And for his sake, the play
 Was call'd for the second day.

In the above lines may also be found an explanation of a part of Laneham's text, namely, the word "*ton-sword*," which most probably signifies a large and long two-handed sword. The epithet is very likely a corruption of *espalon*, a French word which has the above meaning.

Page 44.—*Salsipotent.*

An epithet derived from the Latin *salsipotens*, which signifies one who has power over the salt seas; in which sense it is used by Plautus. *Ainsworth.*

Page 45.—*His bands scaled.*

Came away.

Page 50.—*Tonsor wise.*

More properly written tonsure-wise; that is to say, shaven in a circle after the manner of the monks. *Vide Percy.*

Ibid.—*Kendal green.*

This description of the minstrel's dress is particularly valuable, as it gives a highly-finished portrait of a class of men long since entirely extinct; and therefore, as many parts of the costume alluded to in the text are now unknown, it will form an interesting note to consider over and to explain them. The person mentioned is stated to have resembled "a Squire Minstrel of Middlesex;" and from this Dr. Percy supposes, that "there were other inferior orders, as yeomen minstrels, or the like." Philip Stubbes, in his "Anatomy of Abuses," 1595, gives a particular detail of the *Ruff*, which is the first part of the minstrel's dress mentioned in the text. From this it may be learned, that a *setting stick*, also alluded to, was an instrument made either of wood or bone for laying the plaits of the ruff in proper form. "A side gown of *Kendal green*," was a long hanging robe of coarse green woolen cloth or baize, for the manufacture of which the town of Kendal in Westmoreland was very anciently celebrated. From Stafford's tract already cited, it would appear that this cloth was appropriated to servants; as he there says, "For I know when a serving-man was content to go in a Kendal coat in summer, and a frise coat in winter; and with a plain white hose made meet for his body; and with a piece of beef, or some other dish of sodden meat, all the week long: now will he look to have at the least for summer, a coat of the finest cloth that may be gotten for money, and his hosen of the finest kersey, and that of

some strange dye, as Flanders-dye or French-puke, that a prince or great lord can wear no finer if he wear cloth." The mantle of Kendal-green, Laneham proceeds to state, was gathered at the neck with a *narrow gorget*, or collar. The gorget, which literally signifies a throat-piece, was originally a part of the female dress, and consisted of a long piece of cloth, or other stuff, wrapped several times about the neck, raised on either side the face, and secured in the front by long pins driven into the folds. The *white clasp and keeper* were probably formed of pewter, as the words "white metal" are often used in this sense in the writers of Laneham's period. A *red Caddis girdle* was one of those Spanish manufactures of which Stafford so much complains; they derived their name from being made at the city of Cadiz in Spain, out of the fells or untanned hides, which were sent from England to be formed into skins of Spanish leather. To this girdle hung, as usual, *a pair of Sheffield knives, capped*, or placed within a case; for as the use of forks was not known in England till about the year 1610, knives, for common purposes, were usually made in pairs. The word *napkin* is placed for handkerchief. The description of the minstrel's gown will easily be understood; and it is only requisite to remark upon it, that *fustain a-napes* signifies Naples fustain, or what was sometimes called fustain bustain. *Nether stocks* were under stockings. The scutcheon about the minstrel's neck, alludes to an ancient custom for persons of that profession to wear the badge of that family by which they were retained; as the three belonging to the House of Percy wore each of them a silver crescent.

Towards the end of the sixteenth century, this class of men had lost all their former credit, and were sunk so low in public estimation, that in 1597, 39th of Eliz. a statutē was passed, by which minstrels, wandering abroad, were included with "rogues, vagabonds, and sturdy beggars," and were directed to be punished as such. This act seems to have put an end to the profession.

Page 52.—*Flawnes.*

Phillips describes a flawn to be "a kind of dainty made of fine flour, eggs, and butter."

Page 57.—*Out of king Arthur's acts.*

In Caxton's edition, "La Morte d'Author," the chapter whence this story is taken is entitled, "How the tydings came to Arthur that kyng Ryons had overcome xi kynge; and how he desyred Arthur's berde to purfyl his mantel." With respect to the poetical tale given in the text, Dr. Percy, by whom it was printed in his "Reliques," supposes the thought to have been originally taken from Jeffery of Monmouth's History. It has also been printed in "Percy Enderbie's Cambria Triumphans," with some variations in the text, which is probably much more pure than that used by Laneham, since it is stated to have been procured from "a manuscript in the library of the right honourable Thomas Lord Windesore."

Ibid.—*Camelot.*

The city of Winchester.

Ibid.—*Heralds in cloaks.*

The original word in this ballad is *herwkes*, which is derived from the French *hueque*, a cloak. The tabards, or surcoats, of the ancient heralds, were often denominated *liouses*, or *housings*; and this expression was applied, indiscriminately, to their coats of arms, as well as to a dark-coloured robe without sleeves, edged with fur, which they formerly wore.

Ibid.—*Largess.*

A cry used by the heralds whenever they were rewarded by knights or sovereigns. It is still in use at a coronation. It is a French expression, signifying a present or gift.

Ibid.—*Deas.*

The highest or principal table in a hall, which usually stood upon a platform. The word comes from the French *dais*, a canopy, as such a covering was usually erected over the chief seats.

Ibid.—*'Gan prick.*

Pressed hastily forwards.

Page 57.—*Steven.*

Voice, sounds.

Page 58.—*Cantle,*

A piece or part. Shakspeare uses the word in king Henry IV. part I. act 3, scene 1.

“And cuts me, from the best of all my land,
A huge half-moon, a monstrous *cantle* out.

Ibid.—*Stour.*

A battle.

Page 68.—*The Spindle and Rock.*A distaff held in the hand, from which the wool was spun by a ball fixed below on a spindle, upon which every thread was wound up as it was done. It was the ancient way of spinning, and is still in use in many northern counties. *Vide Bailey.*Page 71.—*A beautiful garden.*

It would appear from the “Secret Memoirs of the earl of Leicester,” that the magnificent gardens and spacious parks at Kenilworth were not completed without some oppression on the part of their possessor, as the unknown author of the above work thus speaks concerning them:—“The like proceedings he used with the tenants about Killingworth, where he received the said lordship and Castle from the prince, in gift, of 24*l.* yearly rent, or thereabouts, hath made it better than 500*l.* by year, by an old record also found, by great good fortune, in a hole of the wall, as it is given out (for he hath singular good luck always in finding out records for his purpose;) by virtue whereof he hath taken from his tenants round about their lands, woods, pastures, and commons, to make himself parks, chases, and other commodities therewith, to the subversion of many a good family which was maintained there before this devourer set foot in that country.” At a subsequent part of the same volume is mentioned lord Leicester’s “intolerable tyranny” upon the lands of one Lane, “who offered to take Killing-

worth Castle." A royal favourite, however, and a successful minister, was never yet without enemies, and it is certain that lord Leicester was not; the whole of the volume out of which these extracts have been made, is filled with charges of the most dreadful crimes with which human nature can be stained; yet even these are related with such levity, such seeming familiarity with vice, that the reader is tempted to believe that a great proportion of it was fabricated by malice, and that the author was even worse than the character he describes. But to return:—The garden mentioned in the text will doubtless remind some readers of those splendid pleasure-grounds which belonged to lord Burleigh, at Theobalds in Hertfordshire, and sir Walter Raleigh's at Shirburne Castle in Dorsetshire. Of the former, Peck, in his "Desiderata Curiosa," says, "He also greatly delighted in making gardens, fountains, and walks, which at Theobalds were perfected most costly, beautifully, and pleasantly. Where one might walk two miles in the walks before he came to their ends." Sir Paul Hentzner, in his "Journey into England," when speaking of the same place, describes it more particularly. "From this place" [i. e. the gallery] "one goes into the garden, encompassed with a ditch full of water, large enough for one to have the pleasure of going in a boat, and rowing between the shrubs; here are great variety of trees and plants; labyrinths made with a great deal of labour; a *jet d'eau*, with its basin of white marble; and columns and pyramids of wood and other materials up and down the garden: After seeing these, we were led by the gardener into the summer-house, in the lower part of which, built semicircularly, are the twelve Roman emperors, in white marble, and a table of touchstone; the upper part of it is set round with cisterns of lead, into which water is conveyed through pipes, so that fish may be kept in them, and in summer time they are very convenient for bathing; in another room for entertainment, very near this, and joined to it by a little bridge, is an oval table of red marble." Concerning the pleasure-grounds at Shirburne, in Peck's work before cited, there is only a notice that Sir Walter Raleigh had drawn the river

through the rocks into his garden ; but Coker states, that he built in the park adjoining to the Castle, " from the ground, a most fine house, which he beautified with orchards, gardens and groves, of such variety and delight, that whether you consider the goodness of the soil, the pleasantness of the seat, and other delicacies belonging to it, it is unparalleled by any in these parts." The above extracts will be an amusing counterpart to Laneham's elaborate description of lord Leicester's gardens.

Page 71.—*White Bears.*

These effigies were allusive to the ancient badge of the earls of Warwick, which was, *a bear erect Argent, muzzled Gules, supporting a ragged staff of the first*; the ragged staffs were introduced in another part of the garden, *vide ante*, page 75. Lord Leicester's connexion with the earls of Warwick was through the houses of Lisle and Beauchamp, brought into the family of Dudley by his mother, Elizabeth Talbot. In 1561, Ambrose Dudley, Robert's elder brother, was made earl of Warwick, and consequently the badge was thus introduced.

Ibid.—*Redolent.*

From the Latin *redolens*, yielding a sweet smell or scent.

Page 73.—*Transom and architrave.*

The word architrave signifies the lowest member of the cornice, and an architrave window is one with an ogee, or wreathed moulding. A transom is a beam or lintel crossing over a window,

Ibid.—*Bolted columns.*

Bolted is a term used in building, to signify any prominence or jutting-out beyond the flat face of the wall.

Ibid.—*Pointed, tabled, rock and round.*

It is evident that these precious stones were imitated in painting ; and that they were meant to represent the gems in their various appearances. *Pointed*, or rose, as it is termed by the lapidaries, is when a stone is cut with

many angles rising from an octagon, and terminating in a point. *Tabled* is when a diamond is formed with one flat upper surface ; and the word table also signifies the principal face. *Rough* is understood to mean the gem in its primary state, when its radiance is seen to sparkle through the dross of the mine. *Round* denotes the jewel when it is cut and polished with a convex surface. The expression “garnished with their gold,” which follows in the text, signifies ornamented with their settings.

Page 76.—*Tridental fuskin.*

A term derived from the Latin *fuscina*, an eel-spear, trident, or three-forked mace. —*Vide* *Ainsworth*.

Page 77.—*For etymon of the word worthy to be called Paradise.*

Laneham, in making use of this expression, gave to Lord Leicester's gardens a name which it was customary to apply to pleasure-grounds and houses in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, as in the instances of Wressell and Lekinfield, in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Page 80.—*Binites.*

A word probably coined by Laneham to express duality, or the quality of being two. Its principal derivation is evidently from the Latin *binus*, two.

Ibid.—*Bice for ground, and gold for letters.*

Bice is a pale olive colour prepared from the Armenian stone, formerly brought from Armenia, but now from the silver mines of Germany ; in consequence of which smalt is sometimes finely levigated, and called bice. The dials alluded to in the text were enamelled, and with the sun's reflection on the gold figures, heightened by the azure ground, must have had a most splendid appearance.

Page 83.—*The iron bedstead of Og, King of Basan.*
Vide *Deuteronomy*, chap. iii. verse 11.

Page 84.—*Lanuginous.*

An adjective derived from the Latin *lanuginosus*, downy, covered with soft hair.

Page 87.—*Defecated.*

A participle formed of the Latin verb *defaco*, to purify liquors from their lees and foulness.

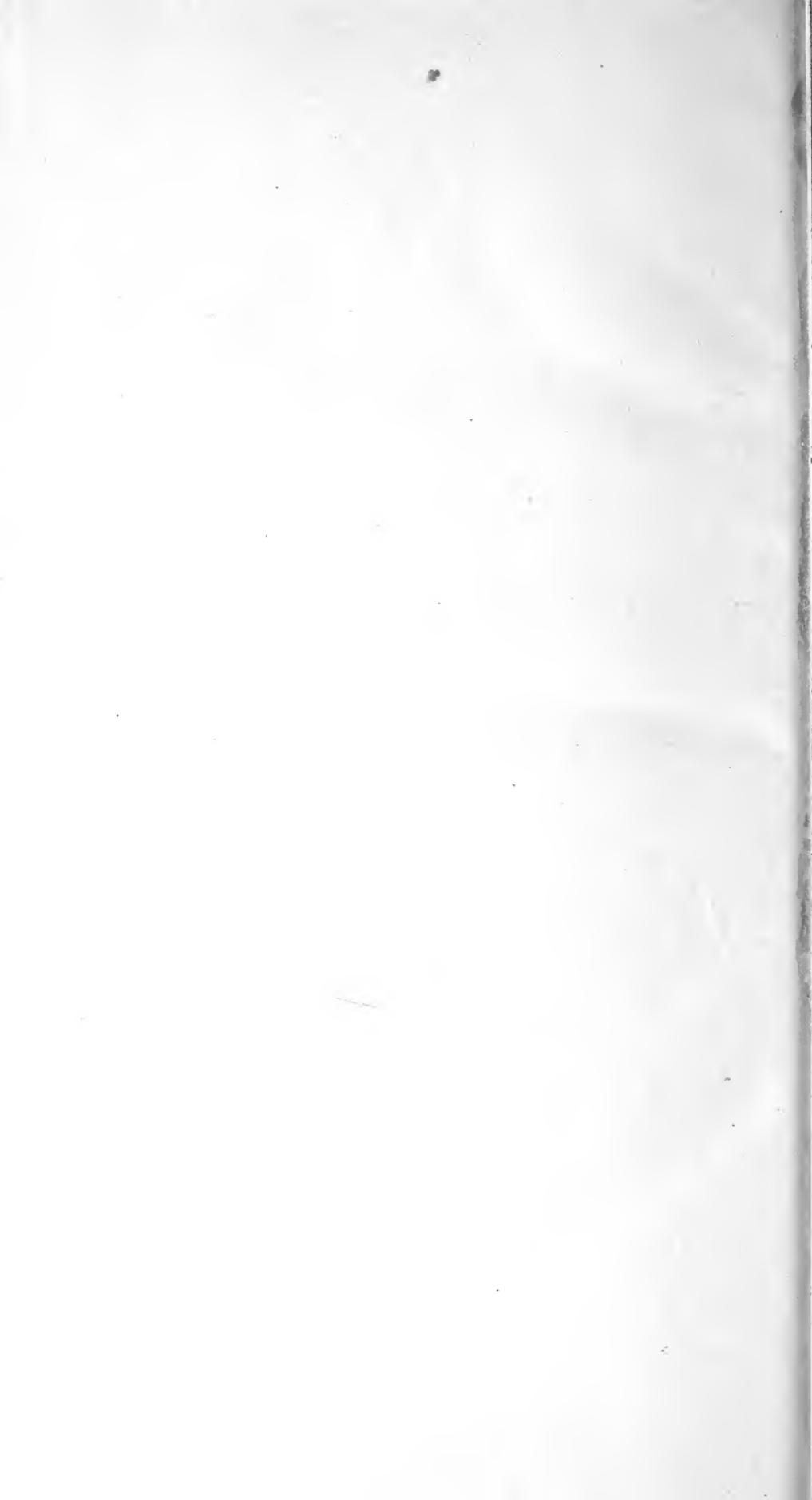
Ibid.—*Gittern—cittern—virginals.*

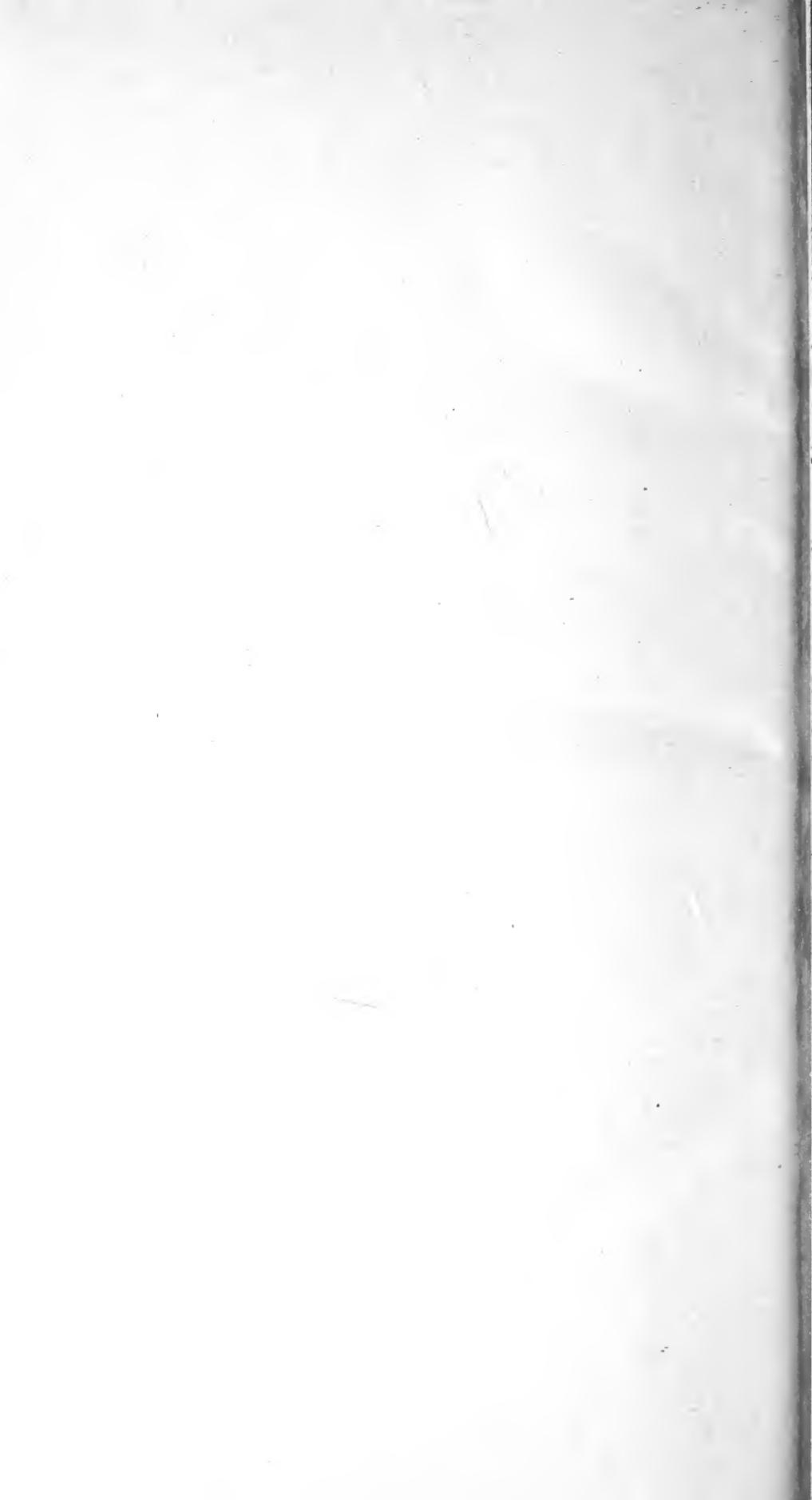
The two first of these instruments, if not the same, were at least closely resembling each other. The words are a corruption from the Spanish *citara*, a guitar; or *Citron*, a guitar-maker. Citterns were a species of that extensive class of musical instruments of the guitar form, known in the best era of music in England, which went under the names of the Lute Ompharion, Bambora, &c. some of which had notes to 9.—*Vide* “A Pathway to Musick,” obl. 8vo. The *virginals* was a keyed instrument of one string to each note like a spinet, but in shape resembling a small piano-forte.

Page 90.—*Spanish Sospires, &c.*

Laneham gives in this passage a specimen of making love in the various languages in which he was skilled. *Suspiro*, in the Spanish tongue, signifies a very deep sigh; *He*, in the French, expresses the emotions of the soul in love; *Dolce*, in Italian, means dear or beloved; and in Dutch, *Hoofskied* is the word for courtship.

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